



CPMR MIGRATION TASK FORCE MEETING

6 September 2017 (11.00-16.45) – Brussels

Venue: CPMR Office, 14 rond point Schuman

PARTICIPANTS

CPMR REGIONS

ABRUZZO:	Paula DI SALVATORE, Territorial Cooperation Department - IPA Adriatic CBC Programme Federica FERRAUTO, IPA Adriatic CBC Programme
ATTICA	Dimitra POLANTZA, Representative of Attica Regional Office in Brussels
ANDALUCIA	Lucas J. RUIZ DÍAZ, Policy Officer, Andalusian regional office in Brussels
ASTURIAS:	Remedios BORDIU, EU Adviser
BASQUE GOVERNMENT:	Amaia BELOKI, EU Policy Adviser Sofia LUCAS, Basque Government Delegation to the EU
CANARIAS:	Gemma MARTINEZ SOLIÑO
CATALONIA:	Xavier ALONSO, Catalan Government Delegation to the EU Gemma AUBARELL, Responsible for the Mediterranean Strategy and Networks Orland CARDONA, Head of the Institutional relations and Participation Unit, Secretariat for Equality, Migration and Citizenship Mireia SOLÉ LLORT, EU Policy Adviser, Delegation to the EU Anna Maria GONZALEZ MONTES, EU Policy Adviser, Catalan Government Delegation to the EU
CRETE	Nikolaos KOUTSIMPOGIORGOS, Representative
EMILIA-ROMAGNA:	Graziana GALATI, Policy Officer, EU Delegation - Emilia-Romagna Region
LOWER SAXONY:	Julian RABE, Policy Officer Home Affairs, Representation of Lower Saxony to the EU Leon LINDECKE, Student Apprentice
MOLISE:	Carlo MARINELLI, Head of the Brussels Office

MURCIA:	Lucía HUERTAS, Head of the Brussels Office
NAVARRA	Mikel IRUJO, Head of EU Delegation
OCCITANIE:	Jordane SALDUCCI, Policy Officer, Occitanie Europe
PÄIJÄT-HÄME:	Marko MÄLLY, Senior Advisor/International Affairs
TUSCANY:	Antonella POLLAZZI, Policy Officer - Migration
SKÅNE:	Annika ANNERBY JANSSON, Vice-President and Rapporteur on migration issues to the CPMR Political Bureau Tobias SCHÖLIN, Officer Maria LINDBOM, Senior Advisor International Relations
VENETO:	Giorgia FACCO, Social Policy

EU INSTITUTIONS

EC DG REGIO:	Mr Andor URMOS, Policy Officer, 03. Inclusive Growth, Urban and Territorial Development
EC DG DEVCO:	Ms Frédérique HANOTIER, Unit C5 (Cities, Local Authorities, Digitalisation, Infrastructures) Mr Lars GROVALD, Unit C5 Ms Barbara CAULI, Unit C5
EC DG HOME:	Ms Maria MADRID, International Relations Officer, Unit A3. (International Coordination)
EEAS:	Mr Giulio DI BLASI, Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Mogherini
COR/ARLEM:	Mr Peter BOSSMAN, Mayor of Piran (Slovenia), Member of the CIVEX Commission and of ARLEM, Rapporteur of the CoR opinion on a "Partnership Framework with third countries on Migration"
EESC:	Mr José Antonio MORENO DÍAZ, Advisor, Legal Advisor on Immigration, Asylum and Integration Issues, Group II (Workers)

STAKEHOLDER ORGANISATIONS

UNHCR BRUSSELS:	Ms Annabelle ROIG GRANJON, Senior Liaison Officer/Deputy Head – EU / DRRM Section
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CONSULTANTS TO CPMR

Anna TERRÓN, President, INSTRATEGIES, Consultant to the CPMR on migration issues

CPMR SECRETARIAT

Davide STRANGIS, Executive Secretary of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission in charge of the CPMR Task Force on Migration Management
Gregg JONES, Director of Finance and Programmes
Claire STREET, Policy Assistant

APOLOGIES

Regional Council of Southwest Finland

Gabriella CECCARELLI, Head of Office & Livia MENICHETTI, Policy Advisor of the President, Umbria Region

Oriol AMORÓS, Secretary for Equality, Migration and Citizenship, Catalanian Government

Melanie SILVA, Services Director of Emigration, Immigration and Returns, Azores Government

Joan Miró CORDÓN, Ministry of Social Services and Cooperation, Government of the Balearic Islands

INTERNAL MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE

SUMMARY OF DEBATES	DECISION/FOLLOW-UP
<p>1. Introduction and work plan perspectives</p> <p><i>Technical Introduction, Davide Strangis, Executive Secretary, CPMR Intermediterranean Commission, Political Introduction, Annika Annerby Jansson, Vice-President, Region Skåne, Task Force Rapporteur to the Political Bureau</i></p> <p>State of play of Task Force Created in 2015 to respond to the emergency faced by regions dealing with the crisis. Since then migration has become a more structural issue. Activities of the Task Force: reflections exchange of best practice, lobbying, projects and policy positions. At present, the aim is to discuss how to go forward to promote the benefit and role of regions in migration at European level.</p> <p>Political context The EU has been and is still struggling to find more effective ways to manage the migration crisis and also develop cooperation with third countries. Some good news is that the Court of Justice had just overruled the appeals from Hungary, Poland and Slovakia concerning relocation. This means that work can restart to address the humanitarian and long-term issues. The actions of the Task Force have been creating awareness at political level and promoting a multi-level and solidarity approach considering real situations on the ground. Regions and local authorities should not simply be executors, they need to be directly involved in decision making processes and implementation of policies on the ground.</p> <p>Plan for activities up to beginning of 2018 During this phase, the CPMR is working with the support of high-level expert Anna Terrón former Secretary of State on Migration of the Spanish Government and MEP, current President of the consultancy INSTRATEGIES.</p> <p>Key deliverables will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping survey launched in July based on a questionnaire. 	<p>Timetable: 4/10/17: Deadline to reply to CPMR questionnaire (Note: extended to the 30/11 after the TF meeting in Helsinki) 18/10/17: Task Force meeting back-to-back meeting with CPMR AGM to discuss progress of issue paper and gather views Beg. 2018: Issue paper. (Review by Task Force members prior to publication.) 1st semester 2018: Results of the survey, proposals of reform of ECAS and for the MFF /Post 2020 period</p> <p>Ongoing: Shaping lobbying activities for future Support to regions in presenting projects – MIPEX and others?</p>

SUMMARY OF DEBATES	DECISION/FOLLOW-UP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues paper on “Migration management on the ground: experiences, needs and potential for action of CPMR Regions towards a multilevel governance approach’. <p>Future actions will be shaped from these two deliverables. There will be focus on gaps and innovative elements and experiences, highlighting the added value and needs of regions. This will allow us to start to deliver messages.</p> <p>In parallel, we will start to work on technical and political messages on the reform of the Common EU Asylum system, and the future of EU funding instruments for migration. Always with the support of the external expert Anna T.</p>	<p>Maintaining relations with other entities (UNDP, UCLG, CALRE, PANORAMED etc.) contributing to their activities and promoting synergies</p>
<p>2. CPMR mapping of regional experiences, needs and potential for migration management: an exercise to learn from each other and to build up CPMR future policy positions</p> <p><i>Presentation by Anna Terrón, Consultant to CPMR on migration issues, President of INSTRATEGIES</i></p> <p>Questionnaire LINK TO DOCUMENT</p> <p>The questionnaire aims to better understand the formal and informal roles that regions across Europe have in migration management policy.</p> <p>The questionnaire is quite detailed. However, it is not necessary for Regions to answer every question, but rather to indicate the most important areas in which they play a role. This can include any policies in which migrants can be the subject (e.g. social, housing, education, health, etc.) as well as the most relevant practices in migration management.</p> <p>It is important to separate refugees from migrants, since there is a clear legal framework for refugees which has an impact directly on how flows are managed.</p> <p>So far, migration has always been approached as an emergency policy. It is time now to look beyond the emergency, in order to face the mid to long term.</p>	<p>Questionnaire: Regions to complete and return. <u>Deadline extended to 4 October 2017 (Note: to the 30/11, after the Helsinki meeting).</u> No need to reply to all questions but give all relevant data.</p> <p>Contributions received can be consulted at this link.</p> <p>CPMR/INSTRATEGIES to identify common issues that can be developed in the issue paper and future work of TF</p>

SUMMARY OF DEBATES

DECISION/FOLLOW-UP

The answers to the questionnaire will help us to explain to the EU institutions the practices of EU regions over the years and how they have adapted to the current situation, as well as their role in decision-making and the formal distribution of powers.

We already received a good variety of replies from 8 different countries. It would be useful to have replies from more than one region per country.

Issue Paper Draft Index

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

Four recommendations

- Building a regions' strategy
- Multi-level governance – recognise that there are multilevel interactions and cross-cutting policies - Migration is normally dealt through “Interior affairs” (home affairs) council – so very hard for regional level to input into this
- Regions' contribution to 2015 Agenda for Migration
- EU Financial Instruments

Everyone accepts that migration management requires multilevel governance and cross-cutting policies. However, multi-level governance still needs to be built. In fact Regions do not have a real say on several issues dealing with migration management. Many decisions are essentially taken at State level (home affairs council), even if things change depending on the State.

We need to highlight the regional contribution to the 2015 Agenda for Migration. Migration as an issue will still be very much present.

CPMR Regions need to work together to clarify their position on the recast of the Common Asylum System. It is also appropriate to address the issue of legal migration and the external (neighbourhood) dimension through the relevant Geographical Commissions (Intermediterranean, Balkan & Black Sea).

Issue Paper:

Member regions to provide any feedback on the index for the Issue Paper before the TF meeting in Helsinki.

SUMMARY OF DEBATES	DECISION/FOLLOW-UP
<p>Finally, we need to look at how to translate into better financial instruments covering what regions do.</p>	
<p>Discussion</p> <p><i>The following regions contributed to the debate: Catalonia, Tuscany, Päijät-Häme, Attiki, Skåne, Emilia-Romagna, Molise, Andalucia, Murcia</i></p> <p>The main points raised were:</p> <p><u>Multilevel governance.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relations between national and regional government. Migration is mainly a competence of national governments, but regions are responsible for actions on the ground and are often lacking information, resources, appropriate legal framework, etc. - Relations between regions and municipalities: address possible cleavages between regional and local needs <p><u>Common wording and approach:</u> in terms of reception, integration and common responsibilities. MIPEX R can be a good tool for sharing and standardising information and giving clarity to regional role. Northern Europe for example is not always experiencing migratory phenomena on the same scale but the regions are facing the same challenges and practical issues.</p> <p><u>Legal framework:</u> addressing gaps to meet the changing environment. Eg. Sweden is receiving high numbers of migrants in relation to its population size, which has led to the introduction of mandatory relocation quotas in the regions.</p> <p><u>Solidarity:</u> More solidarity needed between countries receiving and countries of relocation. Court of Justice ruling of 6/9/17 against Poland, Slovakia and Hungary is a step towards ensuring more solidarity</p> <p><u>Relocation:</u> role of regions in showing best practices, e.g. Committee of the Regions report recommends to avoid creating big centres but spreading across territories / some other practice as in Tuscany are operating in that sense</p>	

SUMMARY OF DEBATES

DECISION/FOLLOW-UP

Reception: Big issue for southern Med countries. Sharing of best practice from regions is essential. (e.g. Attiki has a successful example of setting up first successful logistics centre in Greece to coordinate medicine, food, education and training, psychological support etc. for hosting and reception centres throughout the country).

Integration: area where regions have an important role. There are many relevant practices in the regions. Notably regional integration policies can help create sometimes a more positive perception of migrants among local populations (e.g. Tuscany: volunteer actions in the community for asylum seekers)

Unaccompanied minors: this issue is identified by many regions as a priority. Successful regional solutions need to be promoted (e.g. Molise: welcoming minors in families of the same ethnic group already established in the territory)

Regional strategies: Include migration as an integral part of regional inclusive growth strategies (e.g. Skåne is linking migrant integration to smart specialisation and health care among others).

Communication of information from the ground: Regions can communicate essential information from the ground, as they have understanding of the movement of migrants. Powerful point to convince EU institutions of added value of regions in helping them understand migration flows. Eg. those in 3rd movement.

Funding: shaping MFF post 2020. DG REGI and HOME are reflecting on how Cohesion Policy can help to tackle migrant integration issues especially, but no clarity as yet. CPMR needs to follow these developments closely.

Programmes and projects: Identifying useful programmes for funding projects on migration with the participation of the regions that can help the works of this TF or interact at reflection level, eg. Med Interreg programme for the reflection on migrants and governance/PANORAMED (PLATFORMA project axis 4). Concerning projects: need not simply to map projects but identify the best ones in terms of results and impact, identify the best opportunities for interactions etc.

Synergies with other organisations working on the issue of migration (eg CALRE which has a dedicated working group, UCLG, UNDP, other networks etc.)

SUMMARY OF DEBATES	DECISION/FOLLOW-UP
<p><u>Link with neighbourhood</u> especially Southern Med countries: Connect the issue of migration with decentralised cooperation and cooperation in general with countries of origin or transition. Work area for CPMR Geographical Commissions</p>	
<p>3. Projects on Migration</p> <p>a. MIPEX-R (pilot project) <i>Presented by Orland Cardona , Catalonia (project co-leader)</i> LINK TO POWERPOINT PRESENTATION</p> <p>MIPEX is currently a methodological tool for states to analyse compare and improve integration policies. It presents indicators on what countries are doing, how well they are doing and what the outcomes of their actions are.</p> <p>A Regional MIPEX will help to raise the profile of regional action in this field by showing specific competences, outcomes and possibilities for improvement. The aim is to have a comparison between regions of different countries AND between regions within the same state of how national policies are implemented at regional level and within regional competences and to identify opportunities for regional action.</p> <p>The results will be presented in the same format as for the national MIPEX (website).</p> <p>Currently 9 regions are committed to the project. Other regions are encouraged to join as this will have the advantage of sharing costs to reduce the amount of funding from each region.</p> <p>In response to a query from Skåne regarding the actual kick-off date, Mr Cardona indicated that this would happen as soon as the contract was signed by Catalonia as co-lead partner, hopefully within two weeks. The goal is to finish preliminary phase by end of year. One concern expressed by Skåne in this respect was that their selected experts would already be fully booked.</p> <p>Xabi Alonso (Catalonia) acknowledged the difficulty in starting the project, but was confident that once the project was running it would attract many more regions. The national MIPEX had only 15 states engaged at the beginning but now more than 40 countries are involved.</p>	<p>MIPEX-R</p> <p>MIPEX-R Project to kick-off as soon as the contract will be signed between Catalonia and CIDOB & MPG</p> <p>CIDOB/MPG to contact partner regions to sign contracts afterwards</p> <p>CIDOB/MPG to propose dates for meeting with experts in Barcelona</p> <p>First pilot phase to begin before the end of 2017</p> <p>Still chance for regions to join 1st phase if interested</p> <p>Contact: Orland Cardona (Catalonia) orland.cardona@gencat.cat Tel. +34 93 2701687</p>

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<p>Regarding funding, Davide Strangis mentioned that the Task Force would go to the EU institutions with the preliminary results to explore the possibility of co-funding for the project.</p> <p>b. Other projects or funding opportunities</p> <p>Some project proposals submitted by member regions and CPMR unfortunately have not proved successful so far.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the AMIF call, projects dealing with the labour market were not approved for a few points. • A project proposal under the EASI call for fast track integration was not accepted. This call is rather difficult as not very well adapted to regions. • A project submitted under the Trust Fund, North African window was not selected due to reasons not linked to the quality of the project. However, Catalonia is rethinking the proposal for future call for proposals. <p>Despite being unsuccessful, these project calls have enabled the regions to form partnerships and establish synergies for future actions.</p> <p>The Task Force will continue to support projects submitted by its members under future calls, when there will be an added value for the organization and its members.</p> <p>Regarding funding, the CPMR produced a note on funding opportunities in 2016. It would be useful for regions to provide input on ideas for further opportunities in order to update and share the note among the Task Force.</p>	<p>Other projects: Task Force to continue monitoring calls and supporting project proposals from its members</p> <p>Funding opportunities: Regions can share ideas on funding opportunities so that the CPMR secretariat can update the note on Funding Opportunities (last updated November 2016)</p>
<p>4. Synergies with other initiatives/actions</p> <p>a. PANORAMED axis 4 governance, Interreg MED</p> <p>This is an Interreg MED innovative platform project on governance over 5 years. It involves States and pilot regions and aims to analyse gaps in Med governance towards solutions. It will start addressing 2 main themes: marine surveillance and sustainable tourism.</p>	<p>PANORAMED CPMR secretariat will circulate to TF members the matrix to collect documents.</p> <p>CPMR members can provide inputs to the Secretariat</p>

SUMMARY OF DEBATES	DECISION/FOLLOW-UP
<p>There will be a specific transversal task dealing with migration and how to connect this issue to the other topics identified. Molise Region is leading this task with the support of Emilia-Romagna on the methodology. How to connect migration to other topics identified by horizontal projects?</p> <p>As a 1st step, regions and stakeholders are asked to identify useful documents for analysis that will be collected and shared in a matrix. The member of the TF are invited to contribute to this exercise.</p> <p>b. Others: UNDP, UCLG etc</p> <p>CPMR is already exchanging information with other networks and organisations on migration issues.</p> <p>UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) is inviting the CPMR to contribute to its work on migrants and social inclusion. It is involved in the organisation of two major events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Level Conference City to city Migration, Beirut 7-8 November 2017 (more information) • Global Conference on cities and migrants, Mechelen, Belgium, 16-17 November 2017 (more information) <p>Two CPMR regions can be invited as speakers, one from the Mediterranean area and one from another part of Europe. Interested regions should contact Davide Strangis.</p> <p>UNDP Joint Migration Development Initiative (JMDI) is producing two guidelines on how to include migration in local development and decentralised cooperation actions and it quotes examples from the CPMR. They will be available end September: “<i>Guidelines on Mainstreaming Migration into Local Development Planning</i>”, and the “<i>Guidelines on Integrating Migration into Decentralised Cooperation</i>”</p> <p>Attiki will organise a big migration conference in Brussels in 2018 with the CPMR (exact date and title tbc). It will invite CPMR regions to exchange views and cooperate. More information available during the next months.</p>	<p>Project kick-off meeting 27 September Seville</p> <p>UCLG events: 7-8/11/17 Beirut: High-level Conference on City to city Migration</p> <p>16-17/11/17 Mechelen (BE): Global Conference on cities and migrants Contact Davide Strangis if your region is interested to be a potential speaker. Davide.strangis@crpm.org. Tel. +34 93 554 50 49</p> <p>UNDP: CPMR secretariat to circulate UNDP guidelines to TF members (available end Sept)</p> <p>Attiki event 2018: more information to be circulated</p>
<p>5. Linking with Future of Europe <i>Wrap up by Gregg Jones, CPMR Director for Finance and EU Programmes and responsible for coordinating CPMR’s reflections on Future of Europe</i></p>	<p>Regions can contribute to the CPMR web forum on migration issues</p>

SUMMARY OF DEBATES	DECISION/FOLLOW-UP
<p>In the wake of Brexit and the publication by the European Commission of a White Paper and 5 follow-up reflection papers, the CPMR wishes to ensure a strong voice for its regions on their vision of what the future of the EU should be about. It has set up a Web forum with analyses and contributions and are holding numerous meetings on the subject. A draft policy position will be produced for the AGM in Helsinki in October.</p> <p>Migration will feature prominently in this paper. It is an issue that reflects well the broader questions of multi-level governance, funding and how the EU is addressing current and future challenges. However, it will not be possible to cover the subject in great detail since it will address all policy areas that concern CPMR regions.</p> <p>The brainstorming session with key external players would provide the opportunity for a broad discussion and to highlight the regions' expertise on the ground.</p>	<p>Draft policy position on future of Europe to be presented at the CPMR AGM in Helsinki (18-20/10/17)</p> <p>Next phase: Manifesto on FoE</p>

BRAINSTORMING ON THE FUTURE OF THE EU: SESSION ON MIGRATION MANAGEMENT AND THE ROLE OF THE REGIONS

• Introduction

Eleni Marianou welcomed the external representatives and member regions and recalled the context of the CPMR's work on migration. While regions did not necessarily have the competences in migration policies, they nevertheless had to bear the consequences. It is important for their voice to be heard.

Davide Strangis explained the activities of the Task Force invited the external representatives to present their visions from institutions to help the CPMR Task Force move forward in its reflections.

Gregg Jones presented the CPMR's current work on Future of Europe.

The CPMR's position is based on 3 main themes:

- Territorial cohesion
- Cooperation (which is the essence of the EU, i.e. bringing people together)
- defending EU values and avoiding fragmentation (EU under attack)

The challenges that the EU is facing are playing out also at regional level. Migration is a key issue for regions along with cohesion, maritime, transport and climate. Migration management policy can be seen as a microcosm of the interplay of EU stakeholders.

Annika Annerby Jansson highlighted the need to promote human decency and reject populism when addressing the migration crisis. She pointed out limitations in the EU response to migration. Internal border controls in 5 Schengen states including Sweden had resulted in a hindrance to working modes and impacted regional economies.

It is important to view migration not as a problem but as a long-term issue contributing to growth. The reflection needs not only to be about asylum seekers but migration as a whole. The benefits of good migration management need to be highlighted in the context of the future of Europe: responding to an ageing population, contribution to growth, entrepreneurship, diversity and innovation, attracting skilled workforce, adapting to a global world. The CPMR will be emphasising the role and best practices of the regions in this regard.

- **Brainstorming with external representatives: current situation and future perspectives concerning the challenges connected to migration management in the EU and its neighbourhood and role of the regions**

SUMMARY OF INTERVENTIONS	MAIN MESSAGES / KEYWORDS
<p>Mr Peter Bossman, Mayor of Piran (Slovenia) Member of the Committee of the Regions CIVEX Commission and ARLEM, Rapporteur of the CoR opinion on a "Partnership Framework with third countries on Migration"</p> <p>Migration is a complex problem with no easy answers. Italian regions had been flagging up the problem since 2010 but no-one listened. It was not until 2015 when over one million+ refugees arrived in Europe that the issue was brought to the wider attention. The regions and local authorities were unable to absorb and deal with the huge numbers of migrants and were left to deal with the crisis alone. It was not until 2016 that the EU came up with a short term and long-term plan.</p> <p>The issue now is to find the right processes of integration for migrants and refugees who are staying in Europe. RLAs are on the front line and are best placed to contribute to policy solutions. However, they need to have access to resources to deal adequately with migration issues in their territories.</p>	<p>Bottom-up approach. Policies cannot work unless we listen to regions and local authorities</p>
<p>Mr Andor Urmos, Policy Officer DG REGIO</p> <p>The Urban Agenda, which has been running for almost two years, has given the opportunity to listen more to RLAs. With regard to multi-level governance, one of the most important challenges is the difference in views between State level and regional level. On migration, one such example is in Spain where Barcelona wants to do more while the state is more reluctant. The fact that some policies are national and some regional makes it difficult sometimes for RLAs to act. We need to examine how to give more voices and powers to RLAs to tackle migration questions.</p> <p>Access to funding for regions is also a major problem. The post 2020 cohesion policy framework is not yet defined, but it is clear that we need to find solutions learnt from the past.</p> <p>At present the discussion on migration management is too narrowed to security issues and what to do with people arriving, but less on integration and how migrants can provide solutions to demographic challenges: shortage of labour force, ageing population, declining number of children, etc.</p>	<p>Legal environment/policies RLAs wanting to do more are blocked by States wanting to do less</p> <p>Cohesion policy post 2020 Key elements: - Multi-level governance, how to work better with RLAs - Simplify access to funding - Make funding opportunities more visible - Critical role of NGOs</p>

SUMMARY OF INTERVENTIONS	MAIN MESSAGES / KEYWORDS
	<p>Demographic challenges Look at how migration can provide solutions</p>
<p>Maria MADRID, International Relations Officer of the International Coordination unit of (DG HOME) Her unit deals with contacts with 3rd countries and the root causes of migration. Work since 2015 is based on the Valletta Joint Action Plan. Actions are led through framework agreements with individual partnership countries, ACP dialogue and the mobility dialogue with Africa as a whole. One main area is to find solutions for youth in Africa in particular linked to the perspective on growth and jobs.</p> <p>DG HOME works essentially at Member State level, but would be interested to understand the issue of integration from the perspective of RLAs.</p>	<p>Valletta Joint Action Plan How can regions contribute within this framework?</p>
<p>Mr Giulio DI BLASI, Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Mogherini, European External Action Service (EEAS) Mr Di Blasi has a lot of experience working with regions in his former positions as head of hotspots for the EC and drafting the EU agenda on migration.</p> <p>Firstly migration should be seen as a human phenomenon and not a problem. Focus now is on the external dimension and what can be done up front to manage the phenomenon properly. This is being done through partnership discussions with third countries.</p> <p>The multi-layered nature of the issue makes it complex to deal with. It affects local level (eg. In third countries: Countries/LAs investing and engaging to transform an illegal economy into a legal one and maintaining public services), up to global level through common agreements among nations at UN level.</p>	<p>EU-Med cooperation Build on wealth of regional experience</p> <p>Long-term challenges MFF, integration, legal migration,</p> <p>Regions-cities exchange Within the framework of MLG</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">SUMMARY OF INTERVENTIONS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MAIN MESSAGES / KEYWORDS</p>
<p>The task is also multifaceted: resettlement, legal avenues, protection, all the way down to offering dignified return for those that don't qualify to come to EU.</p> <p>He raised two messages for reflection:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) how cooperation between regions and cities across the Mediterranean can be strengthened. There is much experience from EU regions in working with other side of Mediterranean and a wealth of opportunity for exchange and cooperation; 2) the EU is at crossroads where it seems to be getting out of crisis mode. Future challenges will be how to integrate migration into the MFF, promoting legal channels of migration and integrating those who are already in the EU. <p>We can now start looking at long term engagements where regions can have an interesting role to play. It is also important to foster exchange between regions and cities.</p>	
<p>Ms Frédérique Hanotier, Unit C5 (Cities, Local Authorities, Digitalisation, Infrastructures), DG DEVCO</p> <p>Her unit represents urban development and cities within DG DEVCO. The policy is currently being developed to take on board the outcomes of the Quito Habitat III conference in 2016.</p> <p>Migration policy is well-developed within DEVCO where it is linked with development. It is necessary to integrate and reinforce the human rights dimension and key aspects of development such as the fight against poverty.</p> <p>It is important to have cooperation between regions and cities, since cities in the process of becoming key actors in development cooperation. DEVCO is working closely with REGIO to see how to implement the Quito agenda using the EU experience.</p> <p>In the context of MLG, vertical and horizontal integration is important. Migration is a key element within an integrated approach and can be delivered through partnership and twinning initiatives. These twinings are not only between North and South but also South-South in the context of urban development.</p>	<p>Linking development cooperation and migration</p> <p>N-S and S-S Twinning</p>

SUMMARY OF INTERVENTIONS	MAIN MESSAGES / KEYWORDS
<p>Long-term engagement is important to promote job creation and investment in the economy, and to integrate migrants as agents of change.</p> <p>Interregional and city-city cooperation is a key for future to build on best practices and lessons learned.</p>	
<p>Mr José Antonio Moreno Díaz, Advisor, Legal Advisor on Immigration, Asylum and Integration Issues, Group II (Workers), European Economic and Social Committee</p> <p>The EESC has a role in social dialogue and issues opinions on legislation as the voice of civil society. It is paying attention to migration, asylum and integration questions through a specialised unit.</p> <p>There currently exists no real legal management of migration, in terms of protection and economic migration. Some directives are segmented (seasonal, skilled workers, students) and some are already outdated (family reunification permits).</p> <p>The EC is currently undertaking an evaluation process to update the process to ensure the legal management of flows. Attempts to implement the Common Asylum System have failed.</p> <p>There is a need to change focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduce a real safe and effective common EU asylum system based on the Geneva Convention and internal solidarity and responsibility between member states • change the narrative about migration: stop viewing it as a problem and linking it with negative language (security, identity, criminality). Start talking about it as a normal process, as part of our shared history • include in the public debate the most affected areas, ie; regions and cities receiving and integrating migrants. RLAs need to have a real role in the political debate about how to deal with migrant flows. • have an open debate about migration on the basis of the rule of law and respect for fundamental rights (Article 2 of Treaty) 	<p>Changing the narrative View migration not as a problem but as a normal phenomenon and a solution</p> <p>Gaps in EU legal framework Need to be addressed as lead to lack of real EU management</p> <p>Include RLAs in the public debate</p>

SUMMARY OF INTERVENTIONS

MAIN MESSAGES / KEYWORDS

Ms Annabelle Roig Granjon, Senior Liaison Officer/Deputy Head – EU / DRRM Section, UNHCR Brussels

UNHCR is one of the agencies involved in migration along with others (eg. UNDP-JMDI) and has a long experience.

In UN language, multi-level governance is viewed as a ‘whole of society’ approach including all stakeholders involved. It is a meeting midway between bottom-up and top-down.

RLAs have a huge operational experience as they are on the front line. They must therefore be operational and responsive, while the national level has a bit more time to think about policy. RLAs have a duty to foster a welcoming environment and preserve the right to asylum, which is an international law obligation that needs to be respected at all levels of governance.

Last September, the UN General Assembly issued a Declaration on Migration and Refugees in which the role of RLAs was highlighted. Regions will also feature strongly in the upcoming [Global Compact](#)

One specific UN migration initiative has been the UNDP Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) run over 10 years. Its function was to highlight the role of RLAs in migration management and promote the multi-stakeholder approach. It will be issuing two sets of strategies in September 2017 that it will share with the CPMR: *“Guidelines on Mainstreaming Migration into Local Development Planning”*, and *“Guidelines on Integrating Migration into Decentralised Cooperation”*

Multi-stakeholder approach

Operational and responsive role of RLAs

- **Exchange with the CPMR Regions (Questions & Answers)**

QUESTIONS	ANSWER
<p>Tuscany – Is the JMDI project on exchanging experiences with extra EU regions still active?</p>	<p>UNHCR (Ms Roig)– this project was possible thanks to the support of DEVCO and Switzerland. Unfortunately, it not continuing due to lack of support and is currently wrapping up</p>
<p>IMC – Regarding twinning, are any new developments or calls planned that will involve regions? Instruments for cooperation: capacity building, pilot trainings, territorial cooperation with the Neighbour countries currently exist but they are not well adapted/enough to have a real impact on multilevel governance, decentralization and the creation of real capacities in different kind of key territorial actors. Not all countries are eligible, the eligibility of this kind of activities is only partial, the budget available is low, the calls are few etc. Besides, decentralised cooperation is mainly led by the more powerful regions with most resources while others are left aside. Bothe the LRAs of the Northern Mediterranean and the ones from Tunisia and Morocco are willing to cooperate more but there is a relatively lack back-up from cooperation instruments. Renewed twinings focused more on “territorial partnerships”, opened to LRAs and territorial stakeholders (including NGOs and Universities) could possibly be a good instrument to foster cooperation, boost decentralization processes and reinforce also the capacities to deal with migration and socio-economic cohesion on the ground.</p>	<p>DG DEVCO (Ms Cauli)– In the future there will be a bigger focus on twinning for sure. This is currently in the programming phase and there is a window for twinning in the budget line for developing countries. A big study led by OECD will be issued at the beginning of next year setting out new trends in decentralised cooperation and underlining the role of RLAs and other actors. Pilot trainings are being developed through PLATFORMA with the contribution of networks such as CPMR but there is only a small amount of funding for pilot activities.</p>
<p>IMC – Will there be a bigger focus on the integration of migrants in future cohesion policy and how will multi-level governance and partnership with other stakeholders be shaped?</p>	<p>DG REGIO (Mr Urmos) – Within the context of MLG, it is not possible to override national rules and cooperation must comply. Some RLAs want to have direct access to funding, but this would require changes in the legal framework (ToEU). However, there has been progress and RLAs are being listened to. Cities have had more opportunity for direct access. (1-2bn).</p>

	<p>No details are available yet outside of the reflection papers. Migration management is a political priority for the future of Europe and Cohesion policy will follow this perspective.</p> <p>The EU is still clarifying questions on a better use of funding for integration; e.g. financing reception facilities. These questions will be an essential part of the MFF.</p> <p>DG REGIO will be able to come back in the first half 2018 when there is a clearer idea of the EC policy framework.</p>
<p>Catalonia – everyone agrees that regions should get funding as this is where integration takes place. Hopefully changes will be announced in this sense.</p> <p>With regard to MLG, Catalonia has contract programmes with all its municipalities. MLG works well therefore in this direction but unfortunately not with the central government.</p> <p>The MIPEX-R project needs to be promoted among EU institutions and EU funding opportunities could be explored.</p>	
<p>Catalonia – the multilevel governance aspect is highlighted as an important issue but the problem is becoming more and more global. The regions can be useful in inclusion and integration policies. The issue is how? when problems and questions are so complex and the narrative unfortunately is still not positive.</p>	<p>EEAS (Mr Di Blasi) - Regions are essential actors to create a useful narrative. Over the past 2 years in the Mediterranean, Commissioner Mogherini has done a good job to create a positive narrative, notably by putting youth at the centre.</p> <p>We should look at how all regions (not only those on the front line) can help the EU to achieve a positive narrative of migration through concrete actions mobilising civil society actors.</p>
<p>Peter Bossman – Regarding the Partnership Framework, one short-term goal is to address the problem of traffickers. There have been no real results so far in this. The problem is shifting. Traffickers are no longer going through Niger but Mali, Morocco to arrive in Spain.</p> <p>As a parallel with piracy, the EU and America took a stand and publicised when they were caught to act as a deterrent. There is enough publicity about catching and punishing smugglers.</p> <p>Balkan criminals now going into this lucrative trade and we have seen an upsurge of people from Bangladesh brought in by Balkan smugglers.</p>	<p>EEAS (Mr Di Blasi) – It is difficult to communicate and change the narrative in the midst of a crisis. Hopefully we are now in a situation where we can steer the narrative towards legal migration, settlement, global governance and sustainable long-term management.</p> <p>The role for regions here is enormous. The recently adopted 5th partnership framework report shows the need for this sort of information to trickle down to RLA level.</p> <p>We should encourage exchange with representations in the Member States and services at central level for tools/toolkits and also use Europe Direct</p>

<p>DG HOME mentioned the 2nd part of the partnership which is engaging directly with target countries. The EU is not always proactive enough and failing to anticipate.</p>	<p>located across EU. The CPMR is invited to receive and distribute communication materials. Regional and local levels can help pass the messages to develop a new narrative by developing new cooperation, exploiting good stories and achieving results.</p> <p>Regarding smuggling, the EU has made exceptional achievements in Niger in reducing numbers. Partnerships with the Niger government and local authorities to provide training systems have delivered real results.</p> <p>Of course, re-routing is inevitable but trafficking is still down. Prosecutions are taking place (68 people brought to justice). There is also more presence of Europol (FRONTEX).</p> <p>However, as Europe is operating in free movement area (ECOWAS) it cannot stop the flows of people. But we need to make sure those leaving this area doing so legally. Actions need to be implemented to help find alternative legal activities for those involved in smuggling for whom it is their only source of livelihood.</p>
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- **Debriefing**

Main conclusions:

- Replies to the questionnaire will be a starting point to analyse regions' needs and match them with windows of opportunity for shaping policies and funding instruments
- The draft index to the issue paper outlines all the themes of focus
- There is a clear recognition of the regional role from external representatives of the institutions and stakeholders
- DG REGIO is open to negotiation. This is a good opportunity for CPMR to propose something different yet feasible in relation to the current approach
- DG DEVCO is reshaping twinning and other forms of cooperation with a new unit in place to deal with this new concept and funding instrument. They are interested in our vision and this is an opportunity to try and shape territorial twinning or territorial partnerships