



## **CPMR Intermediterranean Commission Working Group Meeting on Integrated Maritime Policy:**

### **Bologna Charter coordination board and implementation of the IMP action plan – Current state of play, outlook and the way forward**

**15 May 2014 from 9.30 to 12.30**

Venue: CPMR Offices in Brussels, 14 Rd Point Schuman, Metro Schuman

## **CONCLUSIONS**

On the 15 May 2014 the Mediterranean Regions Emilia-Romagna, Lazio and East Macedonia-Thrace, hosted by the CPMR-IMC Working Group on IMP, had the pleasure to show some representatives from EC DGs, who kindly attended the meeting, the main objectives of the Bologna Charter 2012 and the content of its operational part: the Macro-Project.

The contents of the Macro-Project are currently going to be developed under the European capitalisation project COASTGAP (MED programme) through a Joint Action Plan composed by a “soft” part (Joint Actions) and a structural works part (Major Projects). Some meetings with EC DGs have been foreseen in order to get their suggestions and advice on this initiative.

The main conclusions of the meeting were that:

- The Bologna Charter and Macro-Project initiative is ambitious and requires strong coordination (the Coordination Board within the CPMR-IMC IMP WG should play this role). Observations have been made about the complexity of this initiative and the apparent opportunity to focus on a limited number of project initiatives, results-oriented and to strongly highlight concrete results from previous projects can be valued, and which actors are involved in. (Assurances on this point have been given by the Bologna Charter promoters that the Joint Action Plan and 8 project lines of the Macro-Project were conceived not as a list of needs but as a “ripe” cluster of initiatives for an integrated approach to coastal zone protection and development. Moreover the added value to include major projects in the Joint Action Plan (and then in the Macro-Project) is that they, to be candidate, should respond to criteria and implement an ICM and MSP approach and principles). As this meeting is only the first introduction of the MP to the EU DGs, the illustration of the concreteness of each project line was conveniently reserved to the next meetings.
- It is important to stress the impact of the projects gathered in the initiative on the mainstream of the Operational Programmes programming.
- The fact that the initiative is involving and working with the South and East Med also through projects like MEDSANDOCAS (as for the ENI programme) is very positive. Additional effort should be made to better address mainstreaming issues, often not realised in the same programming period (to this point it is answered that this initiative, being fostered by COASTGAP, represents in itself a capitalisation and mainstreaming process of projects and results of the previous programming period).

- The cross-fertilisation of projects and its clusterisation process is an asset for the whole process of the Bologna Charter that should be powered. Moreover, the Bologna Charter can significantly contribute to this process, representing an example of best practice and a platform for integration and networking (through cluster initiatives like FACECOAST), also giving its contribution in the implementation of the COM&CAP Marina-Med project, a cross-cutting project supporting all the IMP projects approved in the last call of the MED Programme.
- A Mediterranean Sea Basin Strategy (Maritime Strategy), in the short-term, could provide a coordination framework, as it implies probably more leeway for the regions and “lighter” governance than a Macro-Regional strategy (normally based upon central government Member States’ initiatives). The initiative would fit surely with a Maritime Strategy approach. On the front of other emerging Macro-Regional strategies in the MED - if it will be created in the future - the Bologna Charter process could find its key role within the potential pillars addressing Blue Growth, Integrated Maritime Policy and the fight against climate change. This has already been underlined in the framework of the ARLEM ECOTER Report on a “Cohesion Policy for the Mediterranean” and taken into account within the Road Map for the emerging Macro-Regional Strategies proposed by the Intermediterranean Commission of the CPMR.
- At this stage, considering the absence of Macro-Regional strategies in the Med other than the EUSAIR, the fact that the decision concerning the new strategies is mainly in the hands of the Member States, but also the impulse on the development of multilevel governance aspects of the basin concerning a set of important challenges that some Med Transnational and CBC programmes are demonstrating (e.g. including in their own Operational Programmes the objective 11), it would be realistic to try to consolidate a structured, broad and sound coordination, setting up a kind of Platform for collaboration and cooperation that the initiative could contribute to. Connection with 5+5 initiatives, the Union for the Mediterranean and other initiatives taking place in the Med area is important and could produce also a spill over effect concerning the possible definition of a Macro-Regional Strategy for the Western Mediterranean in the future (together with another for the East and a global integrated Med strategy, in a geometry variable perspective). A macro-regional strategy that could take properly into account the key role of the Regions from the very beginning.
- Moreover the topics of the Macro-Project are well suited for the 1<sup>st</sup> Pillar of the EUSAIR. Proposals in relation to the initiative could be prepared for the calls that will be launched by the end of 2014, beginning of 2015. The JAP (as the non-structural part of the Macro-Project) should therefore take into account the EUSAIR.
- It is fundamental for the initiative to be fully connected with the action of Member States in the related areas of work.
- EC-DG representatives expressed their strong interest in the Bologna Charter initiative and recommend its strong connection in the near future with the ongoing initiatives for the implementation of key EU regulations and related funding (non-exhaustive list):
  - Environment:
    - Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (NB: CPMR work on this is on-going, a note will be discussed at the CPMR Political Bureau in June, and a more specific meeting will take place in Brussels on 24 June 2014);
    - LIFE: the new LIFE programme will integrate “Water” “Marine” “Nature”. In the last meeting of Directors a Roadmap has been proposed to join forces, create synergies and join public participation.
  - Research and Innovation:
    - Virtual Knowledge Centre (interesting for the EURIOMCODE initiative: a 1<sup>st</sup> Study for its development will start by the end of 2014).

- Meeting organised by DG RTD on 21 May 2014 concerning “A Blue Growth Strategy for the Mediterranean”. Fabio Trincardi (Director of RITMARE (Italian Flagship Project on Marine and Maritime Research) and ISMAR-CNR) has been indicated and will participate in this meeting.
- o MSP and ICM:
  - Discussion on the implementation of the MSP Directive. CPMR is a Member of the EC Expert Group on ICM, which will meet with the EC Expert Group on MSP in Athens on 4-5 June 2014 (with discussions on the Directive on and Coastal Adaptation Guide as well): coordination with Bologna Charter will be ensured.
  - Specific calls for proposals on MSP and ICM will be launched in the framework of EMFF and could be interesting under the perspective of the Bologna Charter.
- o Marine data:
  - An Emodnet secretariat was inaugurated on 13 February. Several “sea-basin checkpoints” will be inaugurated. The MED sbc is already active (referent is Nadia Pinardi, CMCC). A programme for EU Coastal Mapping is under preparation.
  - In summer 2014 a Call for Tender for preparatory project (budget of 13M Euros) will have two main aims: 1) collect existing data (what has been done already) - 2) to prepare a larger programme that will implement the whole initiative of coastal mapping Europe. Possibility to include specifications facilitating interaction with regional level will be analysed.

By the end of the sessions it was agreed that a further meeting will be held, in early autumn (end of Sept/Oct) date to be defined, to share progress and to give more in-depth illustrations of the project lines of the Joint Action Plan.

### List of Participants

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