

Aims

Regional Cooperation contributes to:

Reinforce regional integration

Promote the sharing of experiences and the transfer of expertise

Set and promote best practice

Define common thematic strategies and action plans

Carry out together concrete projects

Create networks of people and organisations

Reinforce capacities of national and local authorities

Advance the strengthening of civil society

European Commission

EuropeAid Cooperation Office

Centralised operations for Europe, the Mediterranean and Middle East, B-1049 Brussels

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/enpi-south/index_en.htm



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EuropeAid



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP

Regional Cooperation



EUROMED



Regional Cooperation builds bridges between the European Union and its Mediterranean Partners through the funding of multi-country programmes and projects that engage partners in a constructive dialogue and contribute to build an area of peace, security and prosperity.

Since the launch of the Barcelona Process in 1995, the EU's aim was to build bridges with its Partners from the Southern Mediterranean and Middle East. The objective was to become a channel of change in the region, bringing peace, security and prosperity.

These political objectives had to be translated into policies on the ground to pursue the path to political and socio-economic reform and directly or indirectly benefit the people. This is where **Regional Cooperation** comes in.

Most of the EU's support is channelled bilaterally through the European Commission's Delegations in the neighbour countries. But Regional Cooperation is unique in a sense that it brings together the EU and its Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) around the same table to discuss common policies and carry out concrete actions together.

Throughout the years, Regional Cooperation has been funding projects under the three priority areas set out in Barcelona:

- A **Political and Security Dialogue**, to foster peace, conflict resolution, stability but also cooperate on migration and Justice issues;
- An **Economic and Financial Partnership**, with a focus on favouring the economic conditions of growth, reforming key sectors and establishing a Free Trade Area by 2010.
- A **Social, Cultural and Human Partnership**, to promote culture and intercultural dialogue, gender equality, increase education opportunities, and strengthen civil society.

In 2004, the European Commission launched the **European Neighbourhood Policy** (ENP) for all its neighbours to the east and the south. Whereas, the Barcelona Process develops the regional or multilateral dimension of the Euro-Med Partnership, the ENP works to reinforce the Barcelona Process on a bilateral basis, through action plans taking into account each country's specific needs and characteristics.

Since July 2008, the initiative **Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean** aims to infuse new vitality into the partnership, offering more balanced governance and increased visibility. Some strategic projects will be developed such as the Motorways of the Sea, a Solar Plan or the De-pollution of the Mediterranean.

With 10% of the budget available for the Mediterranean region, Regional Cooperation seeks to **impact the lives of the citizens** either directly, through projects promoting safer travel, cleaner water and more education opportunities for example. Or indirectly through administrative or judicial reforms, investment promotion and gender equality.

It also works in two priority areas of the Euro-Med Partnership: the promotion of peace in the Middle East and a dialogue between cultures. What can be considered as an important achievement is the fact that it manages to **bring people together** to work on concrete projects despite political or other differences.

Regional cooperation is of strategic importance as it deals with problems that are common to many southern neighbour countries, while at the same time promoting cooperation and integration amongst them.

Regional Cooperation does not only benefit the Partner Countries but also the EU itself. It is a means through which the EU gets to know its neighbours better and backs their effort to **achieve change**. This cooperation contributes to develop commercial and human links and brings stability to the neighbourhood.

“ We have come a long way since the launching of the Barcelona process. We have developed a true partnership in a wide array of areas including political dialogue, civil society, education and media through the creation of numerous well functioning Euro-Mediterranean networks. Despite certain obstacles and setbacks, our desire and drive have not been diluted. With the initiative ‘Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean’, we want to consolidate the progress made and build on them and take our partnership to new levels of viability, vitality and visibility for all our citizens. ”

*Benita Ferrero-Waldner,
Commissioner for External Relations and ENP*

Milestones

- 1995** Launch of the Barcelona Process
- 1998-2006** Associations Agreements
- 2002** The European Investment Bank sets up the FEMIP
- 2004** European Neighbourhood Policy launched
- 2005** Celebrating 10 years of Barcelona Process & Adoption of Five-Year Work Programme
- 2007** ENPI Regional Strategy Paper 2007-2013
- 2008** Launch of the “Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean”

Why Regional Cooperation

- Encourage south- north and south – south cooperation
- Solve cross border issues
- Finance activities with no frontiers
- Support change and modernisation
- Prepare the ground for a Free Trade Area (2010)
- Work on regulatory approximation
- Foster sustainable economic development
- Impact efforts to resolve conflicts
- Promote dialogue between cultures

Partnership and Dialogue

Regional Cooperation offers a unique opportunity for people from the partner countries to sit around the same table and engage in a dialogue even in difficult times or on sensitive issues, like safeguarding human rights. Through this exchange people learn to work together, experiences are shared, relationships built, networks created and common activities carried out. Civil society organisations and stakeholders are often given a say.

Who benefits

Regional Cooperation **invests in people** who come together to share knowledge and experiences, learn through training, create networks and build on best practices. Government officials and bodies, NGOs, municipalities, professionals and hundreds of others who participate in the projects funded benefit directly. But, there is a broader long-term impact on the public at large as citizens are the ultimate beneficiaries of any political, economic and social change brought about through this Partnership.

The Financial Instrument

The regional programmes and projects were funded through the MEDA instrument from 1995 to 2007.

Since then, support has been provided under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) which amount to approximately €12 billion for the period 2007-2013. €343 million is foreseen for the period 2007-2010 for regional cooperation in the Mediterranean.

How to get involved

To participate in funded projects, one has to look out for and apply to the calls for tenders, announced on the EuropeAid website

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>.

About a month before a new call is announced, there is a Forecast so that participants have time to prepare. The European Commission and its Delegations often organise Information Days.

Investing in People

Much of the work done by the projects revolves around training, seminars and workshops that build on people's knowledge and capabilities – this ranges from the training of civil servants (Public Administration project) or journalists (Journalist Network) and support to film editors (Audiovisual Programme), to supporting magistrates, legal professionals and high level officials in order to achieve a modern justice system (EuroMed Justice) and building up the knowledge of experts in architectural restoration (Euromed Heritage).

Some projects, like Euromed Aviation and Motorways of the Sea, may mainly involve officials at government level, but the citizens are the ones who will benefit from their outcomes as they promote safety and economic growth. The same goes with Invest in Med, which promotes investment and supports SMEs.

Some build expertise on information gathering, like the MEDSTAT project that collects reliable statistics, while others carry out studies, for example on socio-economic issues (FEMISE). In certain cases, such as the Role of Women in Economic Life programme, practical support and funding is given to organisations.

In Practice

- Saving energy in construction
- An efficient solid waste treatment
- A better management of water resources
- Judicial reform
- Cooperation on Police or Migration issues
- Investment growth
- Quality for competitive products
- Micro-credit for women
- Maritime and aviation safety and security
- Common statistical indicators
- City to city partnerships
- Preservation of the cultural heritage



Regional Programmes Funded

Ongoing projects and programmes

Political and Security Dialogue

Justice, Freedom & Security

EuroMed Justice II

BUDGET € 2 million (2008-2011)
WEBSITE www.euromed-justice.eu

EuroMed Police II

BUDGET € 5 million (2007-2010)
WEBSITE www.cepol.europa.eu/index.php?id=97

Migration

EuroMed Migration II

BUDGET € 2 million (2008-2011)
WEBSITE www.euromed-migration.eu

Political Dialogue

EuroMeSCo – Foreign policy institutes

BUDGET € 4.9 million (2005-2009)
WEBSITE www.euromesco.net

Middle East Peace Process

BUDGET € 10 million (2007-2010)
WEBSITE www.delwbg.ec.europa.eu/

Malta Seminars for diplomats

BUDGET € 940,000 (2004-2008)
WEBSITE www.euromed-seminars.org.mt

Economic and Financial Partnership

Economy

Agadir agreement – EU support project

BUDGET € 4 million (2004-2008)
WEBSITE www.agadiragreement.org
NEW PROJECT € 4 million (2008-2011)

Invest in Med

BUDGET € 9 million (2008-2011)
WEBSITE www.invest-in-med.eu

EuroMed Quality

BUDGET € 7.26 million (2004-2008)
WEBSITE www.euromedquality.org

EuroMed Market

BUDGET € 9.2 million (2002-2008)
WEBSITE www.euromedmarket.org

Femise – Socioeconomic research

BUDGET € 4.9 million (2005-2009)
WEBSITE www.femise.org

FEMIP – Support Fund

BUDGET € 32 million per year (2007-2010)
WEBSITE www.eib.org/projects/regions/med/index.htm

MED-ADR – Commercial dispute resolution

BUDGET € 1.1 million (2005-2008)
WEBSITE www.adrmeda.org

Medibtikar – Innovation and Technology

BUDGET € 7.25 million (2006-2010)
WEBSITE www.medibtikar.net

MEDSTAT II – Statistical cooperation

BUDGET € 30 million (2006-2009)
WEBSITE <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/medstat>

Energy

EAMGM – Euro-Arab Mashreq Gas Market

BUDGET € 6 million from EC (2005-2008)
plus € 1 million in kind from the MPC
WEBSITE www.eamgcc.org

Integrated Electricity market development

BUDGET € 4.9 million (2007-2010)

MED-EMIP – Euro-Mediterranean Energy Market

BUDGET € 4.1 million (2007-2010)
WEBSITE www.medemp.eu

MED-ENEC – Energy efficiency in construction

BUDGET € 4 million (2005-2008)
WEBSITE www.med-enec.com
NEW PROJECT € 5 million (2008-2011)

MED-REG – Energy regulators

BUDGET € 0.3 million (2008-2009)
WEBSITE www.remep.org/medreg

Environment

EMWIS – Water sector cooperation

BUDGET € 2 million MEDA, € 1.3 million Spain, Italy & France (2004-2008)
WEBSITE www.emwis.net

MEDA Water – Resource management

BUDGET € 40 million (2003-2008)
WEBSITE www.medawater-rmsu.org

Mediterranean Environment programme

BUDGET € 7 million (2008-2011)

SMAP III – Sustainable environmental development

BUDGET € 15 million (2005-2008)
WEBSITE www.smaponline.net

Avian influenza and global influenza pandemic preparedness

BUDGET € 10 million (2006-2009)

Civil protection Disaster management Gas Market

BUDGET € 1.9 million (2004-2008)
WEBSITE www.euromed-protection-civile.eu/
NEW PROJECT € 4.4 million (2008-2011)

Information Society

EUMEDRegNet

BUDGET € 5 million (2008-2011)
WEBSITE www.eumedis.net

NATP II – Telecommunications policy

BUDGET € 4 million (2005-2008)
WEBSITE www.natp2.org

Transport

EuroMed Transport programme

BUDGET € 9.7 million (2003-2008)
WEBSITE www.euromedtransport.org
NEW PROJECT € 6 million (2008-2011)

EuroMed Aviation

BUDGET € 5 Million (2007-2010)
WEBSITE www.euromedtransport.org

Motorways of the Sea – Transport connections

BUDGET € 4.8 million (2006-2009)
WEBSITE <http://www.euromedtransport.org>

Safemed – Maritime safety and pollution prevention

BUDGET € 4.5 million (2006-2008)
WEBSITE www.safemed-project.org
NEW PROJECT € 4.5 million (2008-2011)

EuroMed Satellite Navigation (GNSS)

BUDGET € 4.5 million (2005-2009)
WEBSITE www.aui.ma/GNSS/metis/metis_project/
NEW PROJECT € 4.5 million (2009-2012)

Social, Cultural and Human Partnership

Audiovisual & Media

Audiovisual – Euro-Mediterranean audiovisual cooperation

BUDGET € 15 million (2005-2008)
WEBSITE www.euromediaudiovisuel.net

Regional Information and Communication

BUDGET € 12 million (2008-2011)
WEBSITE www.euromedinfo.eu

Culture

Euromed Heritage II-III

BUDGET € 40 million (2002-2008)
WEBSITE www.euromedheritage.net
NEW PROJECT € 17 million (2008-2011)

Anna Lindh Foundation – Dialogue between cultures

BUDGET € 5 million (2005-2008)
WEBSITE www.euromedalex.org
NEW PROJECT € 7 million (2008-2010)

Education & Training

Training of public administrations

BUDGET € 6 million (2004-2008)
WEBSITE www.eipa.eu/en/topics/show/&tid=158

MEDA-ETE – Education and training for employment

BUDGET € 5 million (2004-2008)
WEBSITE www.meda-ete.net

TEMPUS III – University studies

BUDGET € 98.5 million (2000-2007)
WEBSITE http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/tempus/index_en.html
NEW PROJECT 2008-2013

Gender Issues & Youth

Role of Women in Economic Life

BUDGET € 5 million (2006-2008)
WEBSITE www.roleofwomenineconomiclife.net/intro.html
NEW PROJECT € 5 million (2008-2011)

Euromed Youth III

BUDGET € 5 million (2005-2008)
WEBSITE www.euromedyouth.net
NEW PROJECT € 5 million (2009-2011)

Civil Society and Local Authorities

Euromed Civil Forum

BUDGET Determined by each EU Presidency since 1995
WEBSITE www.euromedplatform.org

Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Councils

BUDGET € 50,000 per annum since 1995
WEBSITE www.eesco.europa.eu/sections/rex/euromed/index_en.asp?id=3020rexen

TRESMED- Civil Society

BUDGET € 907,000 (2008-2010)
WEBSITE www.ces.es/TRESMED/tresmed_en.html

MED-PACT – Local authorities

BUDGET € 5 million (2006-2009)
WEBSITE www.med-pact.com

CIUDAD

BUDGET € 8 million (2008-2011)