



EUROPEAN
STUDY
CENTRE
PLURAL

Mediterranean Governance Policy Brief

N°1, JULY 2011



Project cofinanced by the
European Regional Development Fund



Mediterranean Regions and Multilevel Governance of Culture

Iván Martín

Associate Fellow Instituto Complutense de Estudios Internacionales (Madrid), Research Administrator College of Europe (Warsaw)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

Regions in the Mediterranean have a long tradition and a rich experience in the field of culture. Despite their sizeable resources, administrative capacity and political competences, their participation in formulating EU cultural policy and strategy is limited. Most Mediterranean Regions focus their activities in the field of culture on cultural events and activities and have cultural strategies as such for their own territories. In international cultural cooperation, the heterogeneity of competences and regional governance systems are serious obstacles to cultural cooperation, especially across the Mediterranean. Nevertheless, there is a huge amount of projects and experiences to draw upon and a critical mass of regions with extensive experience in international cultural cooperation exists. Lessons learned from the long tradition of cultural cooperation between European regions could be used in North - South Mediterranean cultural cooperation. Transnational projects are, however, often not subject to serious evaluation or impact assessment and therefore lessons are not sufficiently drawn from the experiences. Until now, networks of regional authorities are mainly of a generalist nature, have weak technical and lobbying capacities, and focus on declaratory activities and attracting funds from States or international organizations.

Recommendations

Mediterranean regions should invest in developing comprehensive territorial cultural strategies (consulting with lower levels of local government and civil society actors) and not limit themselves to managing activities. Interregional international cooperation projects should try to involve territorial bodies of the same level as leading partners. When this is not possible, regional bodies should be associated to the projects so that the implementation of the projects at least contributes to their capacity building. Culture should be mainstreamed into general territorial development strategies at all levels and regions should be mainstreamed into the cultural policy formulation process. It would be useful to create a Network of Mediterranean Regions for Culture. A commission on cultural cooperation and intercultural dialogue should be created within the Euro-Mediterranean Local and Regional Assembly (ARLEM) and links established with the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures (ALF). International cooperation projects in the Mediterranean should invest more resources in: (i) dissemination of outcomes among the general public and reaching out to civil society; and (ii) integrating best practices and experiences from previous projects into new projects. A systematic catalogue of international cultural cooperation projects in the Mediterranean and a synthetic brief of good and bad practices derived from them are necessary to ensure the valorisation of the rich experience regional authorities have accumulated in the field of international cultural cooperation (very often in projects with similar characteristics). Specific Mediterranean strategies for cultural cooperation should be developed on key themes, e.g. cultural heritage, artists exchange, cultural tourism as well as guide and framework for future action.



INTRODUCTION

Background

This Policy Brief is based upon a report which analysed the actual and potential contribution of regional authorities to cultural cooperation and policy formulation in the Euro-Mediterranean area. It was developed in the framework of the MedGovernance Project (www.medgov.net) which aimed at developing the role and contribution of Mediterranean regions to major policies, including transport, competitiveness, environment, and culture. A case study -the Network of Historic Urban Centres of Islamic Influence between Spain, Portugal, and Morocco- was selected for an indepth analysis in order to draw conclusions regarding the articulation between field projects and cultural strategies and policies and regarding the institutional aspects of cultural cooperation. The report deliberately focuses on the cultural action of the regions at the Euro-Mediterranean level, and hence does not address the main context factors of cultural development: e.g. freedom as a context requirement for culture; education as the main enhancing factor; language as a vehicle for communication at the foundation of any cultural exchange; and mobility as a multiplier of culture.

Network of Historic Urban Centres of Islamic Influence

The documentary analysis carried out of the "Network of Historic Urban Centres of Islamic Influence" project shows that the latter was clearly relevant and well designed and, after some initial difficulties, was implemented as planned but its potential as a lever for territorial development and integration between the regions involved in Spain, Portugal, and Morocco, was not fully exploited. This was due mainly to three factors: (i) insufficient integration of the project into other territorial development projects in the same regions; (ii) insufficient investment in the project's dissemination and outreach; and (iii) a lack of follow-up. The "Creation of a project bank for interregional cooperation in the field of territorial planning and cultural heritage" which was mentioned in the original project plan was never implemented. This probably prevented the lessons and experiences drawn from the project from being used in other contexts by the partners involved or by other regions. This conclusion might be relevant for other similar projects of international cultural cooperation between regions.

Importance of Culture in Cooperation in the Mediterranean

Culture and intercultural dialogue in particular represent one of the major challenges today in the Mediterranean. They are fundamental building blocks for achieving the objectives of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership put in place in 1995 and re-launched through the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in 2008. For the Mediterranean to become a true area of shared security and prosperity, culture is a key dimension. Cultural activities make an important contribution to economic activity and to job creation (e.g. tourism). Cultural development is however something more than just an input for social and economic development. Cultural cooperation is significant added value in terms of developing a sense of belonging among populations, something which is acutely needed in the Mediterranean. At the European level, the 'European consensus on development' adopted by the Council in November 2005 identified culture as part of the European Community's human development policy and contributing to local development and economic growth. The Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Culture of 29 - 30 May 2008 in Athens provides a full plaidoyer for the role of culture, cultural cooperation, and intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean process. In the European Agenda for Culture, the EU committed itself to enhancing the cultural component of its external relations, indeed, the "promotion of culture as a vital element in the Union's international relations" is one of the three interrelated sets of objectives of the European Agenda for Culture.



REGION'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEDITERRANEAN CULTURAL POLICIES

Current Situation

Regional authorities have an important and strategic role to play in cultural policy, both because of their proximity to the citizens and the territories and because of their mobilizing potential. They have a key role "to de-globalise its universal objectives and produce local results." The European Agenda for Culture states that "each actor would be called upon to contribute, in full respect of the principle of subsidiarity: for the Member States and their regions, this would mean further developing their policies in these areas with reference to common objectives and an endeavour to steer joint activities inter alia through an open method of coordination and exploring opportunities offered by EU funding." Member States would be encouraged to fully associate local and regional authorities and national cultural stakeholders in the follow-up process and to describe in their national reports how they have been involved. However this association has been rather limited and pro-forma and so far regions played a very limited role in the preparation of the broad cultural policy framework. Cultural policies and strategies tend to be defined exclusively by the States. The EU plays a limited role focussing on a limited set of cultural programmes and financing activities.

Mediterranean Cultural Action of Regions

European regions do have certain competences in the field of culture (often overlapping with other public administrations, whether State or local), as well as financial resources to fund their own policies, i.e., they have the legal, political, and financial tools required to influence general cultural policies and strategies. They also tend to have specific public institutions (e.g. institutes, foundations) that are active in the field of cultural action and international cultural cooperation. In quantitative terms, the situation varies greatly across regions, depending on the level of decentralization in every country and the distribution of competences in the field of culture. Table 1 shows the share of European Mediterranean regions in public expenditure on culture.

Table No. 1: European Mediterranean regions' public expenditure on culture

	Local Governments	Regions/ Provinces	Central Government
France (2002)	36%	12%	51%
Italy (2004)	50,3%	5,5%	44,3%
Germany (2007)	44%	41,3%	14,7%
Portugal (2005)	23,9%	0%	76,1%
Slovenia (2007)	39%	0%	61%
Spain (2006)	54,7%	30,47%	14,83%

Source: Own elaboration on the basis Council of Europe/ERICarts, *Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe*, 10th edition, 2009. No data available for Greece.

Despite this concrete experience in the cultural field regions often act more as service providers and activity organizers, frequently in competition with other levels of governments, than as policy-makers establishing a strategic link between the territories and the State and the international level of governments to define cultural policies and strategies. As a consequence, European regions' participation in cultural policy-making at the European level is rather limited, if not inexistent. Regional councils tend to act as (i) just another cultural operator, often in competition with cities and State institutions; (ii) a grant-distributor; and (iii) regions' cultural action is often an instrument of external "regional marketing" or in some cases "identity projection".

**Governance Structures and Network Building**

Most Mediterranean regions have extensive experience in the participation and management of multi-country cultural projects and activities, often in cooperation with other government levels or partners (e.g. universities, chambers of commerce). European programmes (Interreg, Media, Culture 2000, VI and VII Framework Programmes) have made a strong contribution to this. So have Euro-regions in the framework of which “the evidence shows that cultural cooperation is easier” than in other fields. Nevertheless, it should be noted that effective cooperation is quite complex due to different administrative and institutional traditions and political priorities. Furthermore, the prevalence of EU funding has determined a de facto exclusion of Southern Mediterranean regions and partners in many projects due to their lack of competences and resources. The influence of regions on cultural policy dynamics at the EU or Euro-Mediterranean level is often channeled through single initiatives and strategies by specific regions rather than through articulated strategies from networks of regions. In their relations with State and supranational levels, regions tend to focus on fundraising rather than on influencing cultural strategies and policies. As a consequence, regional cultural action often becomes diluted in a succession of individual initiatives without coherence or strategic vision, incurring in dispersion and sometimes even cacophony. Network building is largely induced by calls for applications from funding institutions.

Generalist Networks

The “generalist” networks, such as the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Region (CPMR), the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Standing Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of Local and Regional Authorities (COPPEM), do not have specific commissions dealing with cultural cooperation. As a consequence, these existing networks do not have the specific technical expertise required for influencing culture policy-making at European or Euro-Mediterranean level, and they are usually not considered as partners by EU institutions or international organizations active in the Mediterranean in the field of culture (e.g. UNESCO). Networks and institutions such as the CPMR or the Committee of the Regions (CoR) seldom focus on cultural issues: they have a rather political nature and act as instances of representation or, in certain cases, support for funding mobilization, but do not often engage in concrete contributions in the cultural field.

Benchmarking and Best Practices Transfer

A huge inventory of projects and experiences and a critical mass of regions with extensive experience in international cultural cooperation exist. European interregional cooperation in the field of culture has a long tradition and there is an increasing stock of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation projects that have been completed or are near completion. It is not so evident, however, that there is mutual knowledge of those experiences or a learning curve based on the assessment and exchange of experiences and good and bad practices resulting from those projects, which often have similar features. Information on them, the way they work, and their assessment is scattered, preventing: (i) the identification of good and bad practices; (ii) synergies between projects; and (iii), the articulation of projects with broader cultural policies or strategies. One of the features of international cultural cooperation in the region is “fragmentation and lack of visibility.” From this experience some key elements for the success of the international cultural cooperation process emerge: (i) identification of the “cooperation theme”; (ii) identification of partner regions; (iii) identification of institutional actors involved, their skills and capacities; (iv) involvement of external actors (agencies, institutions, universities, associations, cultural operators); and (v) a strategy to interact with national and international bodies of cultural policymaking and contribute to them based on the project experience.



MEDITERRANEAN CULTURAL GOVERNANCE AND CULTURAL STRATEGIES

Mediterranean Cultural Governance and Cultural Strategies

Culture has been an integral part of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP) since the beginning, with a specific chapter for “social, human and cultural cooperation.” The stated general aim of the EMP’s third chapter was to develop human resources, increase knowledge of and promote understanding between cultures, and encourage rapprochement between the peoples of the Euro-Mediterranean area through exchanges and the development of free civil societies. These goals were to be addressed through a variety of regional activities aimed at improving educational and training systems, controlling demographic growth, reducing migratory pressures (sic), and fighting racism, xenophobia, and intolerance. Specific areas addressed include cultural heritage, audiovisual cooperation, youth, media, and women. The 1995 Barcelona Work Programme included two specific actions that call for meetings about: (i) the cultural and religious fields to address intolerance; and (ii) closer media interaction. For at least the first ten years of the EMP, cultural cooperation was a largely technical tool involving only institutional actors or specialized agencies, to the extent that we can state that there was no correspondence between stated objectives and mobilized means. The budget allocations have remained largely symbolic (in particular in relation to the overall financial envelope for the MEDA Programme first and the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) subsequently), and the political relevance of cultural initiatives in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership can be questioned.

MAIN INITIATIVES

The main initiatives implemented over the years in the field of culture in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership are the following.

EuroMed Heritage

The EuroMed Heritage regional programme promotes cultural dialogue about the Mediterranean heritage clearly stands out. Euromed IV, the fourth stage of the programme, has been approved for 2008 - 2012 (€13.5 million). In 2007, this programme gave rise to the first “Strategy for the Development of Euro-Mediterranean Cultural Heritage: Priorities from Mediterranean Countries (2007 - 2013.)” Local and regional authorities are hardly mentioned in it or are portrayed as “targets” of the strategy, not as actors and authors of it. However, the programme has recently moved to promote a closer involvement of local and regional activities in its activities.

EuroMed Audiovisual

The EuroMed Audiovisual regional programme promotes the development, promotion, distribution, and circulation of Mediterranean and European audiovisual products. It works mainly with and through an audiovisual operators’ regional programme (€15 million in 2005-2008, plus € 11 million for 2009 - 2012).

EuroMed Youth III

The EuroMed Youth III programme (€5 million in 2005 - 2007, plus €5 million for 2010 - 2013 for the IV stage) promotes youth exchanges.

Tempus

Tempus (2005 - 2013, approximately €35 - 39 million per year) and Erasmus Mundus (2009 - 2010, €29 million) promotes higher education and student mobility (the ENPI Inter-regional Programme in the framework of the Neighbourhood Policy).

Anna Lindh Foundation

The ALF was established in 2005 as the only new institution within the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership so far. In the words of the Ministers of Culture, “the Foundation is a clear testimony of the importance that the Euro-Mediterranean family attaches to dialogue between cultures.” And, given their competences and their activities in the field of culture, local and regional authorities should have an important and specific role in this.



Indeed in their proposal to create a Mediterranean Cultural Foundation, the High Level Group of Experts specified that “when performing its [report] drafting role, the Foundation should take into account as much as possible the experiences and initiatives of local authorities, thus underlining the part they play, and will increasingly play in the intercultural dialogue in everyday life.” In fact, one of the six strategic axes of the ALF established is “Cities and Diversity” (the others are Ideas and Ideologies, Education, Cultural Production, Media, and Religion, Spirituality, and Values). But in reality nothing has been done so far in this respect.

Euro-Mediterranean Cultural Strategy

A new major breakthrough in the development of the cultural chapter was achieved in the Agreed Conclusions of the third Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Culture (Athens, 29 - 30 May 2008), following two former Ministerial Meetings (Bologna 1996 and Rhodes 1998) and the meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Crete 2003) specifically devoted to dialogue between cultures. The Conference reviewed the action of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in the field of culture since 1995. But the most important outcome of the Conference was the decision to let the Conference: “mark the starting point of a full-fledged Euro-Mediterranean Strategy on Culture, encompassing cooperation in both the dialogue between cultures and cultural policy. This strategy should enhance the cultural dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership in an innovative and concrete way”. The Conference also agreed “to establish a follow-up mechanism to draw up a Euro-Mediterranean Cultural Strategy and concrete proposals, to be endorsed by the next meeting of the Ministers of Culture” Quite interestingly and revealingly, no single reference to local and regional authorities’ participation is made throughout the long, articulated conclusions.

Union for the Mediterranean

In the middle of this process of increasing formalization of the Euro-Mediterranean cultural action, the UfM project established in the Paris Summit in July 2008, and conceived to re-launch the EMP. It focuses on concrete (mainly infrastructure) regional projects and was not originally meant to include a specific cultural dimension. However, one of the six projects finally selected for implementation in the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Marseille in November 2008 was the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) inaugurated in June 2008 in Piran, Slovenia, with the aim of becoming “a university of universities.” More specifically in the cultural field, the Ministers just committed themselves to pursuing Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, among many other aspects, for “Promoting dialogue between cultures and cultural diversity,” with three major dimensions: (i) the process that should lead to a new Euromed Strategy on Culture in two years’ time built on a “dialogue between cultures” and “cultural policy”; (ii) the consolidation of the Anna Lindh Foundation’s capacity to promote intercultural dialogue, diversity, and mutual understanding; and (iii) the launching of the Euromed Heritage IV programme. The UfM project is blocked since late 2008.

Alliance of Civilizations

Completely outside the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, and in parallel to it, in the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations (AoC), too, regional authorities are largely absent, in contrast to business bodies and civil society at large. Local authorities are formally present in the AoC process through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in January 2008 with the UCLG, and some mayors of big cities were present at the second high level Forum for the AoC held in Istanbul in 2009, but their substantial involvement has been very limited so far.

**ENPI Cross
Border
Cooperation**

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) started in 2005 as the new framework for bilateral relations between the EU and its neighbouring countries, including the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs). Its financial instrument, the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), replaced in 2007 all previous geographic and thematic assistance programmes of the European Union (EU) to its neighbouring countries, including the MEDA Programme for MPCs (and hence also the funding of Euromed regional programmes). The ENPI contains a new and innovative cross-border cooperation component with sizeable resources specifically addressed to support the involvement of regions and other local actors in the management of EU borders and the cross-border flows, including personal and cultural exchanges. It aims at strengthening cooperation between territories located on the EU's external borders, in other words, between member States and partner countries that share common maritime or land borders. In this respect, two types of programmes exist: bilateral programmes for land borders or short sea crossings, and multilateral sea basin programmes for maritime borders.

Fifteen programmes have been approved within the framework of the ENPI Cross-Border Cooperation Programme (Strategy Paper 2007 - 2013). They have a total budget of €1.181 billion for 2007-2013 (half of it coming from ENPI -or 5 % of the overall ENPI budget- and the other half from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), i.e. from EU structural funds). As a consequence, these programmes are managed using a slightly simplified methodology applicable to structural funds. They are used to finance cooperation projects managed by local and regional authorities, as well as by other local actors and social partners such as universities, trade unions, employer organizations, NGOs, and Chambers of Commerce, including cultural operators.

STRUCTURAL LIMITATIONS OF REGIONS

So finally the European Neighbourhood Policy has created a cooperation instrument, the Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) Programme, which entrust Mediterranean regions with sizeable resources to build up a joint strategy on the basis of a network of projects and partner institutions, including in the cultural sector. However, the publication of the first call for proposals for standard projects in May 2009 revealed some of the structural limitations of this kind of cooperation. Because of administrative delays imputable to heavy EU procedures, it has taken almost two years to start the programme. And its implementation is being further delayed because of political interferences, which do not allow the Programme to be extended to all Mediterranean coastal areas. One recurrent obstacle to region-to-region cultural cooperation across the Mediterranean is the heterogeneity of competences and institutional structures of regions across countries.

When it comes to Southern and Eastern Mediterranean regions, this is aggravated by the regions' lack of autonomy, both administratively and financially: often the partner institutions have to be de-concentrated State bodies (or Ministries), only public institutions with political competences, administrative capacities, and financial resources, in order to engage in this kind of programme. Even if regional authorities are involved, they lack formal competences, or real decision-making often lies in central government institutions (the parallel phenomena of informal decentralization and informal recentralization are at play). Finally, there is no doubt that the lack of a thematic network of regions focused on culture and cultural cooperation in the Mediterranean has prevented the regions from becoming a necessary partner (whether because of their political clout or because of their technical expertise) for the describe initiatives undertaken in the Euro-Mediterranean framework in the last few years, such as the Anna Lindh Foundation or the Euro-Mediterranean Strategy for Culture.



(POTENTIAL) CONTRIBUTION OF REGIONS

The EU and EuroMed regions have been largely absent so far from cultural policy- and strategy-making at the European and Euro-Mediterranean level. As indicated above, although the blueprint for the Euro-Mediterranean Strategy on Culture states that it “should also aim at establishing more balanced cultural exchanges” and that “all dimensions of cooperation should be enhanced (EU partner countries, regional, bilateral), including direct cooperation between individual EuroMed partners, with a view to empowering cultural operators,” this is far from being carried out. As the EU Committee of the Regions stated in its recent White Paper on Multi-Level Governance, “The EU is underpinned by a set of common values and fundamental rights that has been the basis for the emergence of a common political culture at the level of the EU. Subsidiarity, proportionality, proximity, partnership, participation, solidarity and mutual loyalty are the key principles that inspire and guide Community action. They shape the European model of protection for fundamental rights, which include local and regional autonomy and respect for diversity. Promoting and preserving this model requires responsibility to be shared between all tiers of government.” Exactly the same applies to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, and the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Local and Regional Assembly (ARLEM) could be an instrument to ensure this co-ownership and participation. The Committee of Regions (CoR) also states that “multilevel governance is not simply a question of translating European or national objectives into local or regional action, but must also be understood as a process for integrating the objectives of local and regional authorities within the strategies of the EU.” But in order to do so, local and regional authorities should have their own strategies defined, agreed upon, and advocated at the EU and Euro-Mediterranean levels. This requires regions to acquire enhanced strategic capacities and, in particular in the field of culture, a thorough reorientation of their action in this field. Another aspect that should not be neglected is that multilevel governance is a two-way framework. Regions cannot claim participation in the cultural agenda-setting and policy formulation at the State, EU, or Euro-Mediterranean level if they, in turn, do not consult and involve sub-regional actors (such as provinces or cities, but also civil society actors) in their own cultural policy formulation process. This is often the case in Mediterranean regions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Not only Management

Mediterranean regions should invest in developing their own comprehensive territorial cultural strategies, and not limit themselves to managing cultural activities. This is relevant even for those regions that do not have direct competences in the field of culture. These strategies should have an international cooperation window reaching out to other Mediterranean regions. To formulate these strategies, they should consult lower levels of local government (provinces and cities) and civil society actors in their territories, if they want to have a legitimate claim to their right to be consulted and participate in State, EU, and Euro-Mediterranean cultural policymaking.

Inter-regional Projects

Interregional international cooperation projects should try to involve territorial bodies of the same level as leading partners. When this is not possible due to the heterogeneity of competences across countries, regional bodies should be associated to the projects (for instance, when the leading project partner in a Southern Mediterranean country is a Ministry or other de-concentrated State body), so that the implementation of projects contributes to their capacity building.

ARLEM

Following the same rationale, a commission on cultural cooperation and intercultural dialogue should be created within the newly established Euro-Mediterranean Local and Regional Assembly (ARLEM).



Culture Mainstreaming	<p>Culture should be mainstreamed into general territorial development strategies at all levels, and as this is increasingly accepted, regions should be mainstreamed into the cultural policy formulation process. To advance in this direction, it would be extremely functional to create a Mediterranean Network of Regions for Culture bringing together regions from throughout the region (regardless of their level of competences) and specifically focused on cultural and cultural cooperation issues. As a first step, such a network could be created within the Inter-Mediterranean Commission of the CMPR to take advantage of institutional synergies and facilitate linkage to other strategic fields of regions' action. This would contribute to integrating regions' diplomacy in the field of culture into a single framework where regions could be collectively involved as such (without undermining their individual action), a prerequisite for exerting influence on policy-making in the field of culture in the Mediterranean. A limited but specialized and dedicated technical secretariat should be created in this framework. The Network would act as a permanent framework for exchanges and cooperation between regions on cultural issues. It would also conduct a systematic dialogue with networks of cities and other local authorities, Euro-Mediterranean networks of cultural operators, and civil society networks in this field (such as the Forum Euro-Méditerranéen de la Culture (FEMEC), and others).</p>
Associate Regions	<p>The Mediterranean Network of Regions for Culture and the commission on cultural cooperation and intercultural dialogue in ARLEM- should both first address the issue of how to associate regional authorities to the on-going formulation of a Euro-Mediterranean Cultural Strategy and to the activities of the Anna Lindh Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures.</p>
ENPI CBC and Med Basin	<p>The success of the Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) Programme of the ENPI, and in particular of the Mediterranean Basin Programme, has strategic importance for the prospects of increasing the participation of the regions in Mediterranean policy-making in all fields, including culture. The credibility of the regions as full-fledged partners in Euro-Mediterranean cooperation is at stake. So a top priority of all existing networks and regional authorities from the North and the South of the Mediterranean should be to solve current blockades and make sure that it succeeds</p>
ENP	<p>In line with the rationale of the ENP, EU programmes and agencies in the field of culture should be opened to the participation of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries (and regions, in the same conditions as European ones). The EU-Morocco Advanced Status agreed on in October 2008 and currently being developed offers an appropriate framework for this. Participation in EU cultural programmes would strongly enhance Southern Mediterranean regions' capacities in this field.</p>
Investment	<p>International cooperation projects in the Mediterranean should invest more resources and in a more systematic way: (i) in the dissemination of outcomes and results among the general public and in reaching out to civil society, with dedicated budget resources for this (a radical but warranted measure would be to reserve 10% of the budget for these purposes); and (ii) in integrating into the project plan the assimilation of best practices and experiences from other previous similar projects (in the same or other Mediterranean regions).</p>
Further Research	<p>A systematic catalogue of international cultural cooperation projects in the Mediterranean (by similar categories of projects) and a synthetic brief of good and bad practices derived from them are necessary to ensure the valorisation of the rich experience regional authorities have accumulated in the field of international cultural cooperation (very often in projects with similar characteristics).</p>



Cooperation Themes

In the Mediterranean, natural “cooperation themes” for international cultural cooperation are based on common interests/identities such as: (i) common cultural heritage (archaeology and rehabilitation, monuments...); (ii) cultural tourism (roads and itineraries); (iii) common history and identity; (iv) exchanges (youth, artists...); (v) performing arts. A specific strategy for cultural cooperation in each of these fields should be developed by trans-Mediterranean networks of regions as a guide to and a framework for future action.

RESOURCES

For bibliographical resources, please refer to: Iván Martín “The role of the Regions in the Multilevel Governance of Culture in the Mediterranean” available at :

www.medgov.net/sites/default/files/ReportCultureMEDGOVERNANCEfinal.pdf

IVÁN MARTÍN

Economist, he is Associate Fellow of the Instituto Complutense de Estudios Internacionales (ICEI) in Madrid and Research Administrator on the European Neighbourhood at the College of Europe, Natolin Campus (Warsaw). Formerly, he has been Director of the Socio-economic Forum of Casa Árabe in Spain (2006 - 2008) and Associate Professor at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid for six years. His main research interests are the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the European Neighbourhood Policy, employment and migration in Arab Mediterranean countries, and Europe-Maghreb economic relations and territorial cooperation in the Mediterranean. Publications: www.confluences-mediterranee.com/immartin/index.html.

THIS POLICY BRIEF

This Policy Brief is based upon the report by Iván Martín “The role of the Regions in the Multilevel Governance of Culture in the Mediterranean” published in January 2010 in the framework of the Project entitled MedGovernance - New Regional Governance of the Euro-Med Area, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (www.medgov.net) and commissioned by one of the Project partners, the Foundation of Three Cultures (FTS - www.tresculturas.org). The author thanks Imco Brouwer in assisting him in transforming the original paper into this Policy brief. The contents of the Policy brief are the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of European Study Centre Plural, the FTS nor those of any other MedGovernance Project partner.

EUROPEAN STUDY CENTRE PLURAL

Mission

The mission of Plural European Study Centre is to analyse Euro-Mediterranean economic, social and political changes and prospects. It pays special attention to issues related to the concept of subsidiarity.

Publications

www.pluraleurope.net/publications

Projects

www.pluraleurope.net/projects

CONTACTS

Vico San Luca, 4 - 16123 Genova - Italia - Tel: +39 010 8978121

www.pluraleurope.net - info@pluraleurope.net