

Macro-regional cooperation in the Mediterranean : processes and perspectives

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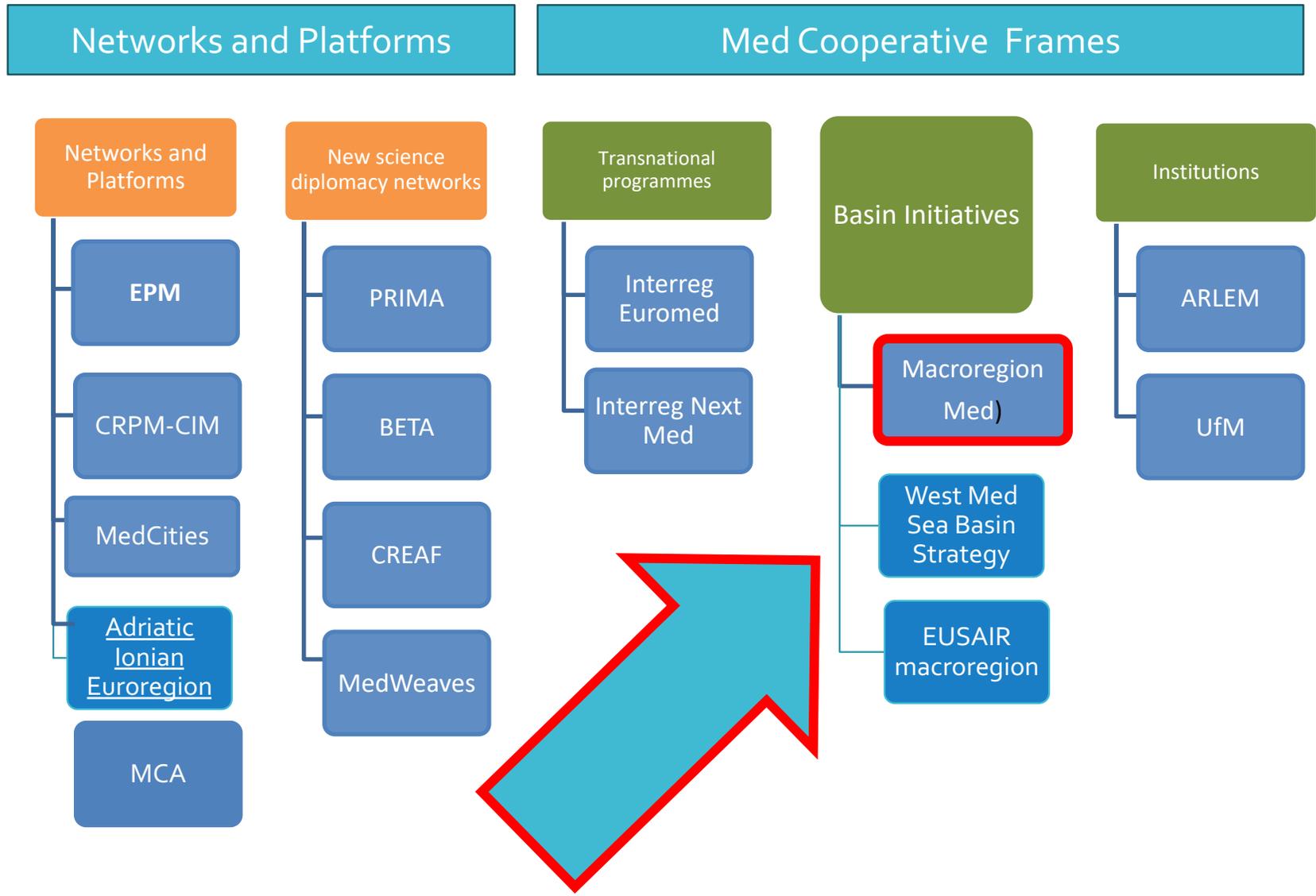
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Understanding the Mediterranean macro-regional context

In a singular Cooperative Region ...





Mediterranean Macro-regional Strategies

Integrated Strategy

- Western Mediterranean IT, FR, ES, PT, MT, MO, TS, DZ, LY, MR
- Eastern Mediterranean EL, CY, TR, SY, LB, JO, IL, PS, EG, LY
- Adriatico Ionian IT, SI, HR, EL, ME, BA, RS, AL



With 2 major sea basin strategic approaches ...



- ❖ **EUSAIR macroregion 2014** : covers 9 countries: 4 EU Member States (Croatia, Greece, Italy, Slovenia) and 5 non-EU countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia).
- ❖ Objective : to promote economic and social prosperity and growth in the region by improving its attractiveness, competitiveness and connectivity.

- ❖ **WestMed initiative 2017** was launched by the UfM with the support of the European Commission, Concerns the 10 countries from the Western Mediterranean: France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Malta, Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

- ❖ Objective: to facilitate exchanges and joint projects on the challenges of the blue economy.





The Med macroregional strategy proposal

This is a unique Bottom-up unfinished process ...

Long (unfinished) process: Since the 2010, EU institutions and various public actors have speculated on how to apply an integrated macro-regional approach to the Mediterranean.

Bottom-up approach: Regional and Local actors through the networks promote this approach.

- ❖ ARLEM report promoted by the network of peripheral and maritime regions (CRPM), on a cohesion policy for the Mediterranean, which explicitly called for a single and integrated macro-regional strategy for the entire Mediterranean (**CRPM-CIM, 2014**).
- ❖ It has been relaunched, promoted by the MCA platform, launching **the Friends of the Med Macroregion** with the aim of being able to establish a space of collaborative governance between the territories of the EU and the Mediterranean basin. (**MCA, 2021-2023**)

Institutional Engagement

- ❖ **Committee of the Regions** with the approval of an Opinion on the Mediterranean Macroregion (**CoR, 2022**).
- ❖ European Parliament, the debate on the potential creation of a macro-region is strongly relaunched, in its report on macro-regional strategies in the Mediterranean (**European Parliament, 2021**) and more recently referring to the impact of climate change (**Alfonsi , François, 2023**)

With a
significant
multi-scale
Network
support

❑ **CRPM /CIM**

CPMR Policy Position on the future of macro-regional and sea basin strategies Political Bureau, March 25 2022, Barcelona, CIM Presidency lobby

❑ **MedCoopAlliance**

Session to debate on the CoR Opinion “Towards a Macro-regional Strategy in the Mediterranean” in the frame of the European Week of Regions and Cities, October 2022, Brussels

❑ **Euroregion Pyrennes-Mediterranean**

Presidents Declaration on the Med Macroregion, Toulouse, Plenary Meeting, February 10, 2023

❑ **The Community of Friends of the Med Macroregion**

launched in Brussels April 2023 open to all the med actors

The guiding principles for the MED Macroregion (*)

(*) From the ICM-CRPM opinion on a Macro-regional strategy on the Mediterranean, CoR stakeholders' consultation 2022

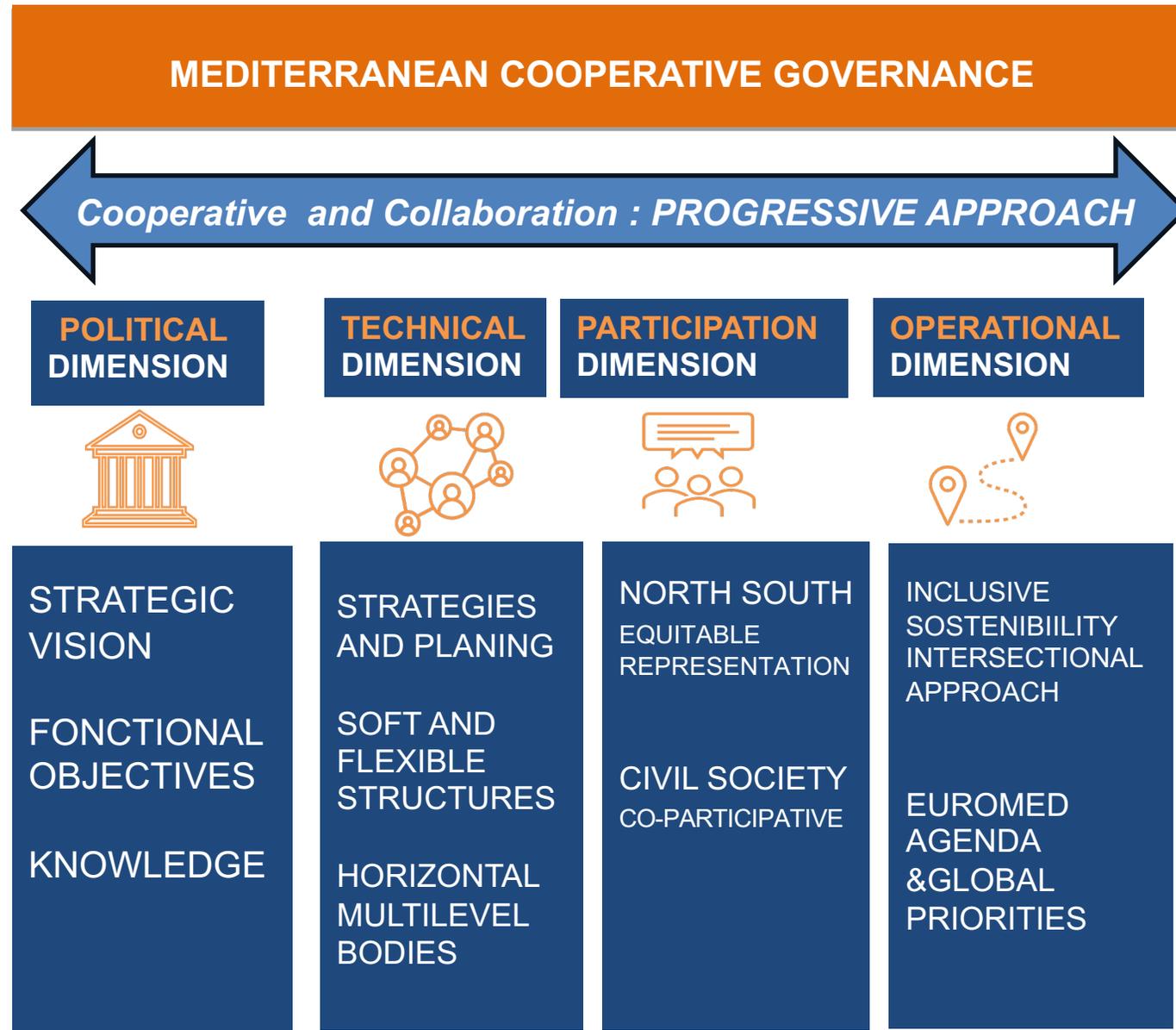
Gradual approach	Aware of the difficulties that certain unstable political and diplomatic situations in the MED may pose, it is proposed that the opinion puts forward the idea of a gradual approach to building a MED macro-regional strategy.
Multilevel cooperative governance	The success of a macro-regional strategy in the Mediterranean, but also its added value compared to existing initiatives, will be linked to the implementation of a multi-level governance, integrating the European, national, regional and local levels (including the civil society) .
Geographical coverage	Bringing together countries and territorial authorities with a maritime coastline in the Mediterranean on the northern, southern and eastern shores.
Voluntary approach	A macro-regional strategy open to the whole Mediterranean basin but built step by step, based on the willingness to contribute/join of the MED countries .
Shared Global challenges	A macro-regional strategy that prioritises and focuses its initial efforts on one of the most pressing and shared challenges in the Mediterranean: the impact of climate change and the necessary ecological transition .

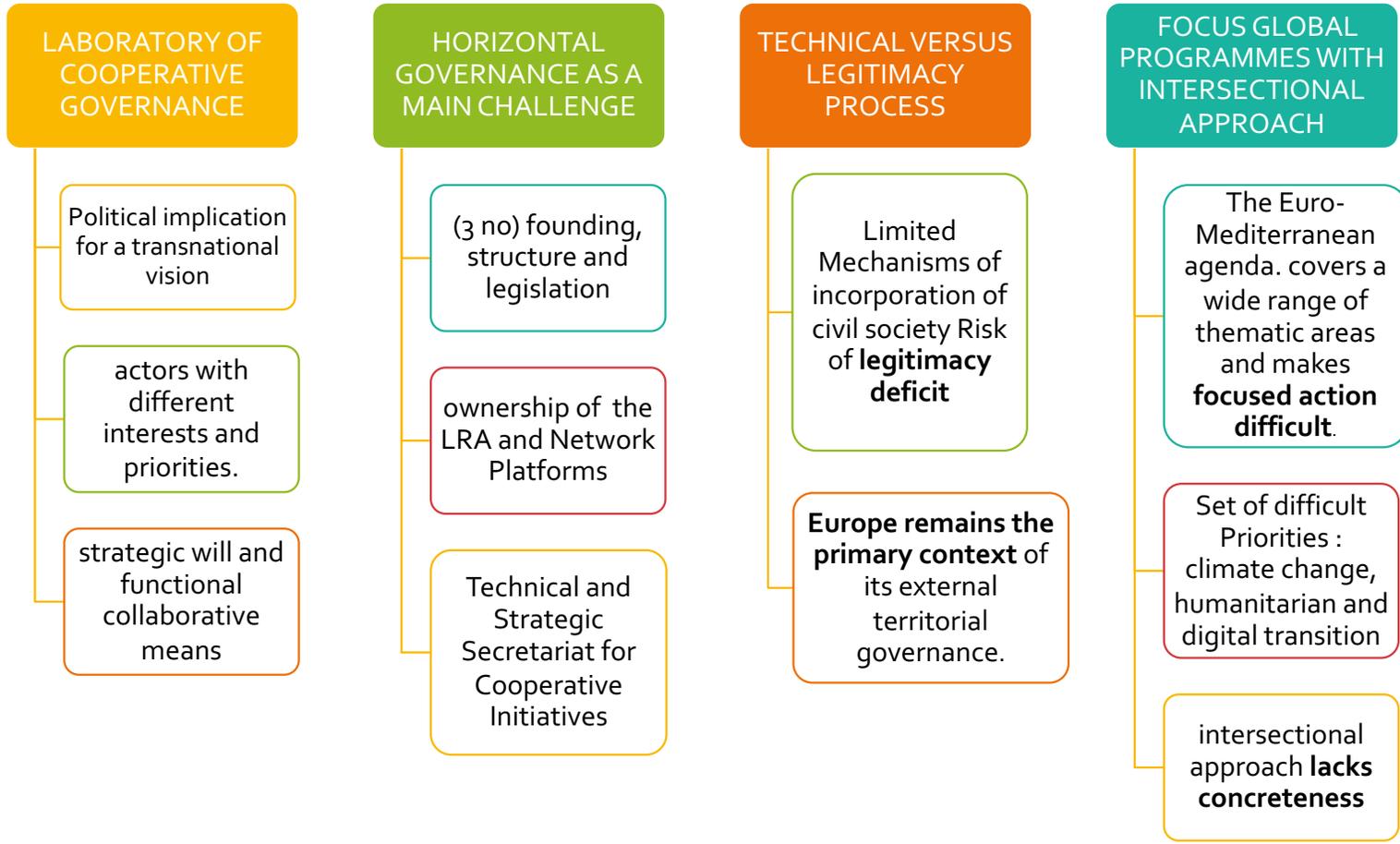
The Med macroregion as Cooperative Governance laboratory



The Cooperative Governance (*)

(*) Preliminary results of an on going research on Macroregional Cooperative Governance in the Mediterranean (EAPC-Barcelona 2023)





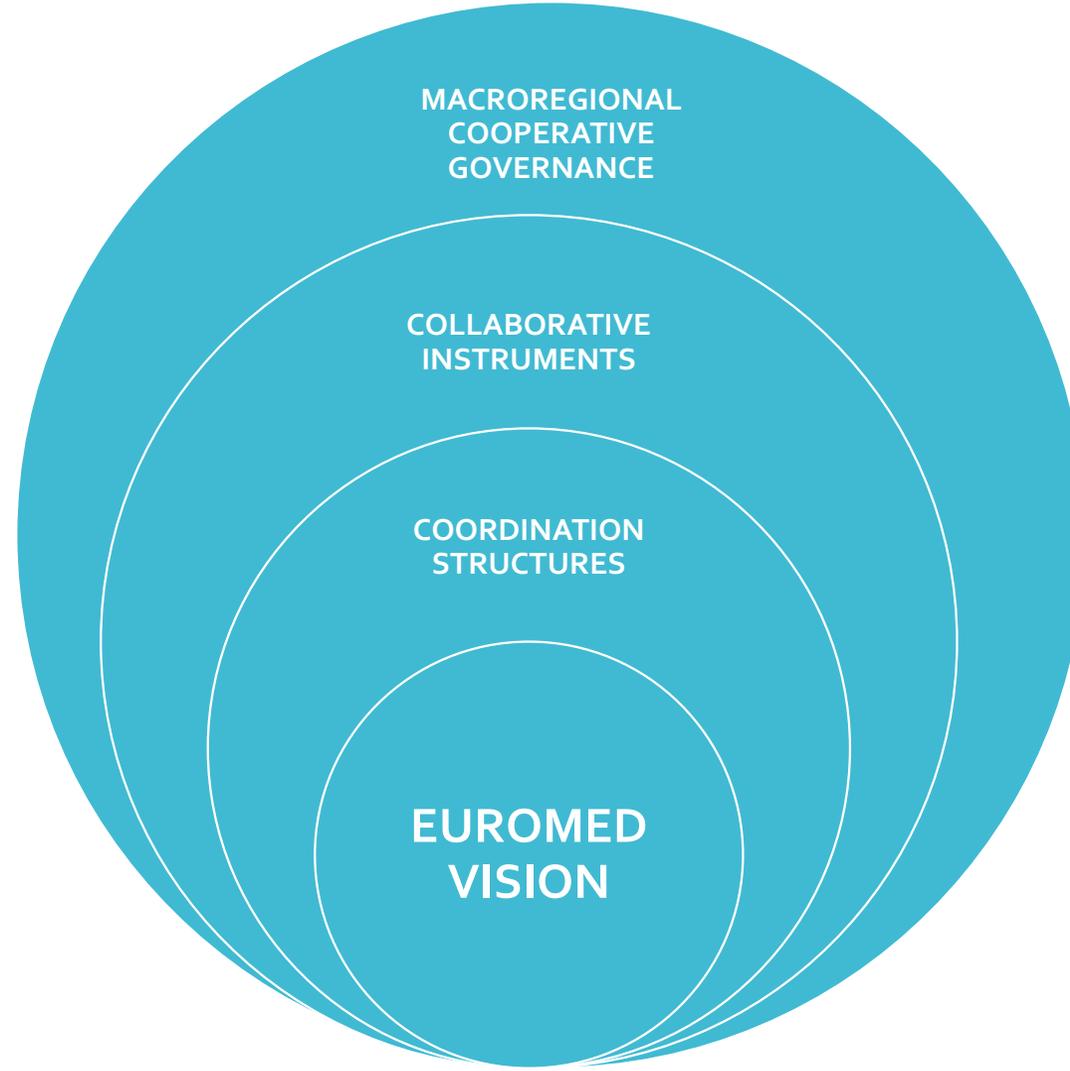
Med macroregion main Challenges ...

The macrorregional strategy in perspective



A dynamic and progressive model (*)

(*) *Preliminary results of an on going research on Macroregional Cooperative Governance in the Mediterranean (EAPC-Barcelona 2023)*



Taking advantage of its Added-Value

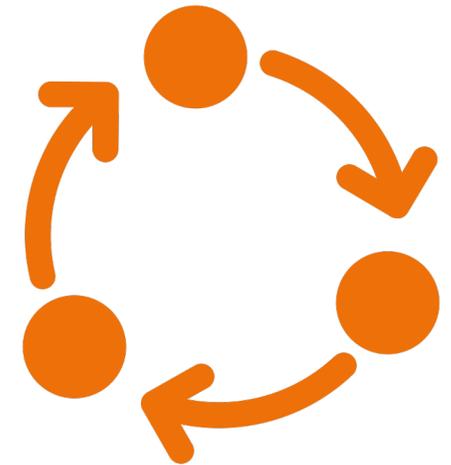
Improving Cooperative Governance

In a context of plurality of actors and initiatives, the Macro-Region will serve as a **multi-level** governance framework to channel and **converge the foreign action focused on the Mediterranean**

The Mediterranean requires for a new mechanism to increase and **improve coordination** with Mediterranean organisations, assemblies and networks.

Promotion of **synergies between different strategic approaches** on governance (including macro-regions and sea basin strategies or the cohesion policy for the Mediterranean)

Development of **joint projects** and reflections on the future of territorial cooperation



Reinforcing Transnational approach

Supportive activity to the **Neighbourhood Policy** and territorial cooperation tools available in the basin
Activities supporting the emergence of a **“Mediterranean of projects”**, decentralised and south-south cooperation, and Mediterranean Southern countries’ decentralisation.