

CENTER FOR MEDITERRANEAN INTEGRATION

PROVIDING REGIONAL PUBLIC GOODS



CENTER for MEDITERRANEAN
INTEGRATION | CENTRE pour
l'INTÉGRATION en MÉDITERRANÉE
مركز التكامل المتوسطي

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WHAT WE ARE: A MULTI-PARTNER PLATFORM

The Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) is a multi-partner platform where development agencies, Governments, local authorities and civil society from around the Mediterranean convene in order to exchange knowledge, discuss public policies, and identify the solutions needed to address key challenges facing the Mediterranean region.

OUR GOAL: AN INCLUSIVE, INTEGRATED, AND STABLE REGION

Through innovative solutions, the CMI aims to help countries achieve transformative reforms and enhance integration in the Mediterranean region.

“The Center for Mediterranean Integration represents a unique space and a catalyst for cooperation and development in the Mediterranean.”

Jean-Marie Paugam & Sami Haddad, Independent Assessment Report, 2014

OUR ESSENCE: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The capacity to build partnerships between a wide spectrum of development actors from the South and the North of the Mediterranean is unique to the CMI.

Members:

Governments: Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, and the European External Action Service (EEAS) as an observer.

Local authorities: City of Marseille, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region.

International financial institutions: European Investment Bank (EIB), the World Bank Group (WB).

Partners:

The CMI nurtures strong partnerships with more than sixty institutions, among which: Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (CDC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Anna Lindh Foundation, Union for the Mediterranean (UFM), Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI), Association of Arab Universities, Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), France Médias Monde, and others. Full list of partners available on www.cmimarseille.org

Partnerships at the heart of the CMI

Governance: Member institutions are represented in the Center's Oversight Committee which, in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding, oversees procedures, and pays close attention to strategy, programs, partnerships, overall orientation and the use of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund. The Oversight Committee meets regularly while the Annual Meeting gathers all partners once a year.

Financing: The CMI's budget has three main components:

- A Multi-Donor Trust Fund, which collects contributions from members and partner institutions.
- Direct contributions from the CMI's partners for specific programs and for general support.
- Financing from the World Bank Group.

Staffing: The CMI has a core team of World Bank staff and hosts other staff seconded from member and partner institutions, who act as members of the greater CMI team and ensure connection to their institution of origin. Since its creation in 2009, the Center has hosted representatives from AFD, CDC, the City of Marseille, EIB, GIZ, WBG, as well as the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy.

OUR STRATEGIC RELEVANCE: CHAMPIONING COLLECTIVE ACTION TO ADDRESS REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is in turmoil:

- Fragility and conflict: Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen are in civil war, with spillovers of refugees, trade interruptions and economic hardship to neighboring countries and Europe. Palestinians are reeling from deadly attacks and blockades.
- Violence: Terrorist groups and sectarian factions spread violence, threaten citizens and governments' ability to perform basic functions, with spillover effects to Europe.
- Unemployment and exclusion: Private investment and economic growth is slowing down in all countries, while unemployment--especially of women and young people--remains the highest in the developing world. Voice and accountability in MENA are amongst the lowest in the world.
- Vulnerability to climate change: The region faces high vulnerability to climate change with

important consequences on water resources, energy use, agriculture, migration, stability, etc.

This turmoil in the MENA region does not just affect the Arab world. The whole world is affected by its spillovers: problems of terrorism, huge refugee migration to Europe and elsewhere, and oil price volatility.

The diffuse nature of these spillovers makes it difficult for any one of the affected countries to address the problem unilaterally. Only a concerted effort by the region's countries, supported by the international community, has a chance of seriously mitigating the effects.

With the diverse composition of its stakeholders, its multi-country approach, its capacity to mobilize worldwide technical expertise, and its neutrality and flexibility, the CMI is uniquely placed to champion such efforts.

OUR FOCUS: YOUTH AND REGIONAL PUBLIC GOODS



**Overarching theme*

Youth is the CMI's overarching theme. All CMI programs and activities are youth-focused or youth-sensitive. Under this umbrella theme, the CMI focuses its work on providing the regional public goods that are needed to address the problems of the region and help it achieve its potential:

- **Education, innovation, employability:** Advancing university governance reforms, quality of technical and vocational skills, youth entrepreneurship, innovation.
- **Refugees and mobility:** Supporting host communities and welfare of refugees; advancing refugee inclusion; promoting labor mobility; mobilizing the diaspora.
- **Violent extremism:** Understanding how development

actions can counter violence; fostering youth inclusion and open-mindedness.

- **Climate change (water & energy):** Promoting a Mediterranean energy market, water and energy efficiency, low-carbon transition.
- **Territorial cohesion and urban development:** Advancing inclusive growth; reducing disparities between regions and territories; promoting cities management and resilience to risks.

By providing these regional public goods, the CMI contributes to building economic and social cohesion, peace preparation, cross-border trade and investment, as well as scientific and cultural exchanges.

CMI IN NUMBERS

Since its creation in 2009 the CMI has:

Engaged with
41
countries

Supported
29
multi-partner
programs

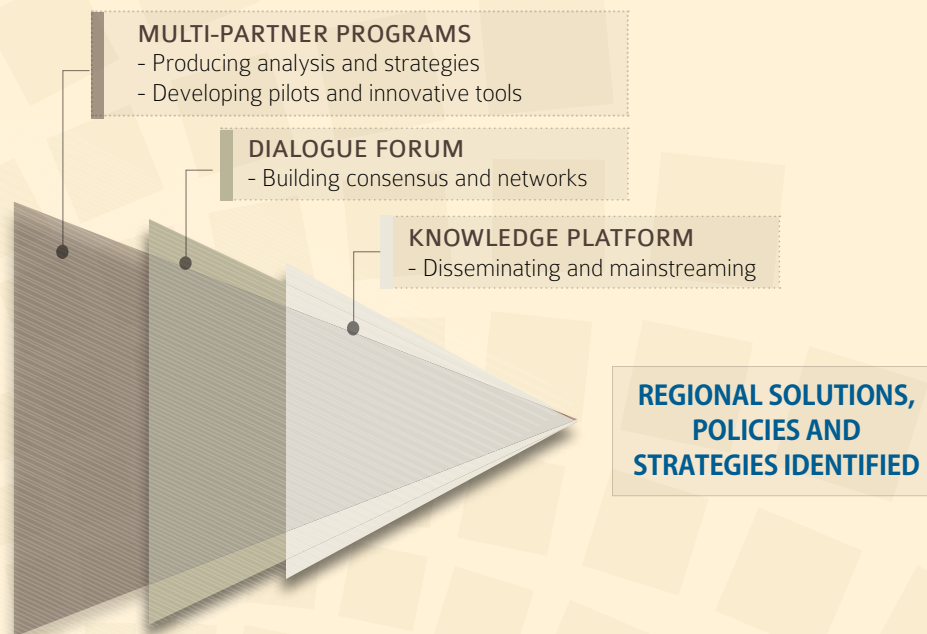
Organized
320
conferences and
workshops in
37 cities

Connected with
255
ministries,
organizations, funds,
and universities

Convened
4111
participants

OUR APPROACH: THREE BUSINESS AREAS FOCUSING ON SOLUTIONS

The CMI focuses on identifying and disseminating solutions and acts as a comprehensive service platform built around three complementary business areas:



- **Multi-partner programs** encourage development stakeholders to work together towards informing policy, operationalizing concepts, and developing innovative analytical tools, concepts and solutions.
- **The Mediterranean dialogue forum** promotes new ideas and weaves together the political, social and economic dimensions of reforms. The dialogue forum contributes to building consensus and reinforcing cooperation across countries, sectors and stakeholders.
- **The Mediterranean knowledge platform** aims at brokering and disseminating relevant knowledge products from its partners. The CMI adds value to knowledge through further customization, dissemination and “activation”.

SELECTED RESULTS

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES AND SOLUTIONS CREATED

- The *University Governance Screening Card* benchmarking tool enables 100 universities to compare themselves to international standards, define their own set of goals, and monitor progress in achieving them. (By WB, ISESCO, UNESCO, 100 universities network, CMI)
- The *Middle East North Africa Innovation Scoreboard* tool allows countries to benchmark and improve their innovation performance and policies. (By EIB, ISESCO, UNESCWA, CMI)

POLICY AND STRATEGY INFORMED

- 27 action plans and city development strategies produced through in-depth diagnosis and strategic policy advice on urban development challenges. (By WB, AFD, CDC, GiZ, CMI)
- CMI policy analysis informed formal agreements on international labor intermediation systems. (By WB, CMI)

REGIONAL DIALOGUES CONVENED

- *High-Level Stakeholder Conference on the Syrian Refugee Crisis* gathering 60 decision makers from the Mashreq, European countries, and development partners resulted in an inter-agency statement calling for a paradigm shift “From Resilience to Development”. (By AFD, UN, WB, CMI)
- Discussion series on *Economic Transitions in the Mediterranean* gathered 23 experts over a year and informed the European Union consultation on a New Southern Neighborhood Policy. (By CMI and experts)

KNOWLEDGE DEEPENED AND MAINSTREAMED

- *First Municipal Finance and Creditworthiness Academy in the Middle East* gathered 115 city leaders and practitioners from Jordan and West Bank and Gaza for an intensive -5day training. (By WB, CMI)
- The *CMI Platform for Communities of Practice* supports the sharing of experiences among Mediterranean practitioners and policy-makers. (By WB, AFD, CMI)

KNOWLEDGE LINKED WITH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

- CMI technical study and partner consultations led to the launch of the *Initiative for Vocational and Technical Training in the Maghreb*. (By AFD, EIB, UE, UfM, EIB, WB, CMI)
- *National Urban Transport Days* workshops and road map for improving public transport prepared for the Agence Française de Développement/ European Union project on railway transport in the Greater Tunis Area Network and Bus Rapid Transit in Agadir. (By AFD, CMI)
- The *Medinas 2030* initiative supported the identification of new projects under the Urban Project Finance Initiative in Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt and resulted in the launch of an investment program for rehabilitation of Tunisia’s historic centers. (By EIB, CMI)

Center for Mediterranean Integration

Villa Valmer, 271 Corniche Kennedy

13007 Marseille, France

+ 56 / 51 24 99 91 (4) 33

info@cmimarseille.org

www.cmimarseille.org

 @CMIMarseille

 CMI Marseille

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