THE CENTER FOR MEDITERRANEAN INTEGRATION (CMI)

PARTNERSHIPS FOR KNOWLEDGE
KNOWLEDGE FOR ACTION
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When the CMI was created, Mediterranean integration was mainly about trade. Ten years after, in a context of multidirectional arrangements and global value chains, integration means strengthening intra-regional links (goods, capital, labor) while increasing the competitiveness of the region in the global economy.

Blanca Moreno-Dodson, CMI Manager

Mediterranean Integration Continues to be Recognized as a Public Good for the Region and for the World

Great Potential
The Mediterranean region offers a large young population, abundant renewable energy, promising economic and political transitions, and strategic positioning as a crossroads between Europe, Africa and Asia, among other assets.

Unlocking this potential through vectors of integration across countries would have positive ripple effects in the region and worldwide.

Turmoil, Instability and Environmental Challenges
Conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and even violent extremism in some enclaves, contribute to forced displacements and instability.

2009
Foundation of CMI in Marseille (2009-2012)

2012
Members sign second Memorandum of Understanding (2012-2015)
On the socioeconomic front, slow economic growth and accentuated social inequalities translate into lack of job opportunities, especially for the youth. In addition, climate change is affecting the region disproportionally, further aggravating existing challenges, such as water scarcity, while also creating opportunities to transition to lower carbon energy sources.

Socioeconomic transformation, improved resilience, and climate change mitigation would have positive spillovers in the region and beyond.

Human Capital, Mobility and Migration

From all perspectives of Mediterranean integration, including trade and capital flows, human capital mobility is the least advanced. Migration has been stigmatized, adding a further challenge for the youth. Yet in reality, if well-managed, regularized migration and labor mobility represent an opportunity which could help foster youth inclusion throughout the region. The region is in dire need of proactive labor market policies, enhanced measures to facilitate circular migration, increased employability of prospective migrants through vocational training programs and active labor market policies, as well as diaspora engagement.

Such an investment in human capital, including reforms in education and mobility policies, would contribute to fostering stronger youth inclusion in the region, as well as pushing towards a more integrated Euro-Mediterranean labor market.
The CMI has partnerships at its core. It is a unique institution gathering governments, international development organizations, local authorities and civil society. Such an alliance is key for policy reforms and transformational development in the Mediterranean region.

The CMI is all about Partnerships

A Multi-Partner Platform

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

MEMBERS
The **CMI**

**Creates a Neutral Space for Dialogue and Influence**

**Governance**
Members jointly decide on strategic orientations and actions.

**Financing**
In addition to the financing provided by the World Bank, a Multi-Donor Trust Fund gathers contributions from members and partners. In addition, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) and the Department for International Development (DFID) provide contributions to externally funded outputs, while members and partners give additional in-kind contributions in connection with specific activities.

**Staffing**
The CMI team currently includes staff from the World Bank (WB), and secondments from the French Development (AFD) and the Council of Europe Development Bank, and collaborates with staff from members and partners.

**Actionable Knowledge**
Thematic hubs and communities of practice generate common frameworks and peer-to-peer learning, which reinforce capacities and influence decision-making.
By acting as a knowledge sharing center that links ideas to policy making and reforms on the ground, the CMI benefits from the technical support of the World Bank and the European Investment Bank, and complements the work of the European Commission, the Union for the Mediterranean, as well as Mediterranean research institutes, think tanks and other regional partners.

The CMI Works Only at the Regional Level

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The CMI Adds Unique Value

- CMI promotes Mediterranean integration for development and reduced disparities between member countries.
- CMI is the only Mediterranean institution bringing together governments, international financial organizations, local authorities and civil society.
- CMI fosters synergies between development lenders, governments, partners and citizens.
- CMI leverages technical expertise, financial resources and networks.
- CMI promotes regional scaling-up of successful experiences at the local, country and regional level.
- CMI offers a neutral platform for actionable dialogue on the basis of its multi-partner model.
A New Vision for a New Mandate
For its fourth phase, the CMI adopted a new strategy. From 2018-2021, the CMI will focus on playing a highly influential role through the expertise and technical rigor it brings to Mediterranean dialogues. At the same time, the CMI will build synergies among Mediterranean stakeholders (governments, funding institutions, private entrepreneurs, civil society, etc.), in order to have a transformational impact on the region.

Strategic Themes
Mediterranean integration will continue to be the organization’s overarching goal. Given the realities of Mediterranean countries and the dynamics of the region, the CMI will selectively focus on two pillars, with Youth and Gender as cross-cutting themes:

- Socio-economic Transformation: Co-development and integration, including migration and human capital mobility.
- Resilience: Mitigation and adaptation to external shocks, mainly climate change and forced displacement.

Five Business Lines
The CMI’s actions will revolve around five business lines
CMI AT WORK
Selected Results

Municipalities Hosting Refugees: from Burden to Assets

Learning network
- Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network gathers 120 municipalities hosting forcibly displaced from 5 countries (MENA and Turkey).

Capacity building
- CMI-designed curricula (webinars, workshops and two compendia of good practices in MENA municipalities) has improved capacities at sub-national levels (municipalities, sub-regions).
- 5 cross-country inter-city twinning relations established between Jordanian, Lebanese and Palestinian local authorities who continue to learn together on local economic development agenda.

Policy recommendations and actions
- First-time ever local economic development strategies in municipalities hosting refugees developed.

Linking knowledge with operations
- CMI work on strengthening capacities of local governments in forced displacement context linked with partners’ programs in Jordan (World Bank), Lebanon (GIZ, UN Habitat), Afghanistan (World Bank), and Horn of Africa (World Bank).
Finding Solutions to the Region’s Water Scarcity

High-level dialogues
- Technical contributions to high-level events for shaping the Mediterranean water agenda (MedCOP 21, World Water Week 2018 and 2019).

Learning network
- Mediterranean Youth for Water (MedYWat), the region’s first water youth network, with 192 researchers, entrepreneurs and activists from 12 countries, 75% of which are females.

Capacity building
- Annual CMI World Water Day trained 120 young Mediterranean water professionals on water scarcity and water & migration.
- Young writers paired up with senior-mentoring staff for the production of working papers.
Promoting the Creation of a Euro-Med Energy Market

High-level dialogues

- Technical contributions to high-level events for shaping the Mediterranean energy agenda (MedCOP21, COP21).
- CMI flagship report on green growth produced and launched at the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille.

Policy recommendations and actions

- Report on the EU “Clean Energy for All Europeans” Package for the Use of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries, exploring options for a larger North-South cooperation and the creation of a Euro-Med energy market.

Learning network

- Mediterranean Forum on Electricity and Climate Change (CMI-EU) gathers governments, international organizations, regulators and electricity companies.
Human Capital: Education, Mobility and Employability

High-level dialogues
- Technical contributions to regional events for shaping the Mediterranean agenda (Mediterranean Economic Week, Mediterranean of the Future and Summit of the Two Shores).

Learning network
- Tertiary Education Learning Network gathers 160 universities from 12 countries.

Capacity building
- University Governance Screening Card benchmarking tool allowing Mediterranean Universities to compare among themselves according to international standards.
- Series of technical workshops on education increased the capacity of 50 representatives from education ministries.

Policy recommendations and actions
- “Cycle Economique” discussion series elaborated policy recommendations on “Economic Transition in the Mediterranean”, “Violent Extremism and Development”, and “Youth, Education and Mobility”
- Initiative on Employability through Vocational Training and Skills Enhancement in the Mediterranean to increase the quality, pertinence and recognition of training and skills delivered across the Mediterranean.
Promoting Integrated Territorial Development

Capacity building

- Metropolitan immersive workshop series increased the capacities of 75 urban practitioners over the past three years.
- Training for Leaders in Urban Transport Planning developed the decision-making and networking capacity of 200 Mediterranean participants over the past seven years.

Linking knowledge with operations

- The European Investment Bank Medinas 2030 initiative: supported identification and preparation of new projects under the Urban Project Finance Initiative (UPFI) in Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt.
- “National Urban Transport Days” workshops and road map for improving public transport: prepared for the Agence Française de Développement/EU joint project on railway transport in the Greater Tunis Area Network and Bus Rapid Transit in Agadir.
- Analytical work on decentralization for Tunisia: informed the preparation of a World Bank Urban Development and Local Governance lending operation under the Program for Result instrument (300 million USD).