ANNUAL REPORT 2021

PARTNERSHIPS FOR KNOWLEDGE.
KNOWLEDGE FOR ACTION.

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# INDEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. OPENING STATEMENTS</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. THE CMI IS ALL ABOUT PARTNERSHIPS</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTNERSHIPS: A NEW ERA WITH A RENEWED MANDATE</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNICATIONS</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMI FUNDING AND EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNEX</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. MEMBERS OF THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE 2021</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION
Since July 2021, the Kingdom of Morocco holds the presidency of the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI). We measure both the honor and the responsibility bestowed upon us.

In this situation paved with uncertainty, which is putting the capacities for resilience of the various countries to the test, we in Morocco have chosen to take the bet of audacity and anticipation.

The Moroccan presidency of the CMI will offer an opportunity to consolidate the achievements of the CMI, but more particularly to increase its scope and impact in terms of clarifying the choices of the decision-makers of our region, by aligning the Center’s activities with the priority interests of its Members.

The Kingdom of Morocco relies on the adherence and unwavering support of all Members to provide the CMI with the necessary means to realize its ambitions, and successfully carry out its studies and strategic analyses projects.

The collective ownership of the issues that challenge our region, the relevance and inventiveness of our programs, and the proactivity and efficiency in terms of their deployment are key to the success of our joint action within the CMI.
2021 constituted an important milestone for the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI). Eleven years after its creation by the World Bank, in partnership with the French government in Marseille, the CMI has officially joined the United Nations (UN) family, hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) with as strong and substantive commitment as ever from the World Bank and most critically its Middle East and North Africa Region.

Since its creation in 2009, the CMI has been a catalyst for knowledge-sharing, North-South and South-South exchanges, and thematic collaboration between the two shores of the Mediterranean and beyond. By operating under the new UN umbrella, it will pursue its mission as a regional initiative to implement the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 – a goal starkly highlighted by the pandemic. The CMI will also contribute to the other SDGs, in connection with inclusive growth, climate change resilience, and human capital.

The COVID-19 shock tested public health systems and destroyed both lives and livelihoods across the Mediterranean. It also brought into sharp focus challenges in immigration systems, highlighted the economic gains from the digital economy, raised interest in the modernization of social protection systems, and disrupted global value chains. While the situation has greatly
improved since the beginning of the pandemic, the recent Chinese lockdowns and rising case counts in Europe show that it will take time for societies to go back to “normal”. And more recently, the tragic war in Ukraine is testing commodity markets, migration flows, and global supply chains for food.

The Mediterranean region – our common and precious connector – will continue to face unprecedented challenges which will, more than ever, require high levels of regional cooperation and international collaboration. The World Bank, as a founding member and original chair of CMI, looks forward to remaining fully engaged at both the strategic and operational levels, to enhance Mediterranean integration and bring people together in the joint and powerful endeavor of human development.
The Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region and the Center for Mediterranean Integration have forged long-standing and strong links since 2014, based on their common commitment to the Mediterranean. Practicing a “territorial diplomacy” with a strong Mediterranean vocation, the region has spared no effort, alongside the state and in addition to national diplomacy, to establish solid partnerships with the local governments of several major Mediterranean countries and to support the emergence of concrete and operational projects in this area.

Alongside other international donors and member states, the region has contributed to the growth of the Center and will continue its support to the CMI within the framework of the CMI’s governance reform. Indeed, since 1st July of 2021, the Center is hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). The Region has fully supported this development, and I would like to welcome this evolution of the Center in a multilateral structure of the United Nations. This will give the CMI, eleven years after its creation, a new strategic and operational dimension. On the strategic side, this development will be a useful way of strengthening a structure that the Euro-Mediterranean area greatly needs. More than ever, the rapprochement between the territories, populations, talents, resources, and projects of the North and the South is necessary. More than ever, solidarity, cooperation and gathering our forces to face our common challenges are essential. On
the operational side, by joining the UN, the CMI will also be able to apply to calls for projects from donors and thus diversifying its sources of funding.

The recent reform of the CMI’s governance also provides for a rotating presidency between the Center’s member countries. I would like to congratulate the Kingdom of Morocco, which has taken on, as of July 1, 2021, the presidency of the Center. This unprecedented rotating presidency will enable a partner from the South, a valuable partner for my Region, to pave the way for a reinforced ownership of the Center by its members. At the same time, last year, the CMI formally welcomed UN-Habitat as a new member.

Over time, the CMI has become a valuable and essential intergovernmental cooperation body, as well as a tool for the convergence of global and national donors. It has demonstrated its legitimacy at a time when the complementarity of our actions in the Mediterranean is essential for the success of our ambitions in this area. The CMI reports and publications are also providing us with knowledge which helps us to better understand Mediterranean issues and define relevant initiatives and projects for our partner territories.

Finally, the CMI has always been a great support for my region through its involvement in our events dedicated to “Méditerranée du Futur”. The CMI contributions have been and will always be very important for the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region and its partners.

As a sign of the trust placed by the Region in the CMI and the recognition of its full legitimacy, last February the Regional Council has renewed its financial support for the period 2022-2024, with a grant of €150,000.

I wish the CMI and all its members success and prosperous collaboration.
One more year I have been privileged to serve as CMI Director and I want to sincerely thank members, partners, and staff for allowing me to contribute to our shared Mediterranean Integration goals.

Joining the United Nations (UN) in July 2021, as a regional example of SDG17 “partnerships for results” in the region, was a culmination of 12 years of efforts building bridges across both sides of the Mediterranean, with significant contributions by the Center’s founders, notably the World Bank and the French Government at an intergovernmental level, as well as all members, plus my predecessors and associates.

Embracing the UN’s frameworks of cooperation and development, and human rights protection, has consolidated previous CMI’s accomplishments and strengthened the Center’s commitment to transparency and accountability. We are thrilled to be part of the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) which has opened new opportunities for collaboration within the UN family, matching capacity building with infrastructures, and technical knowledge with projects on the ground.

Like in the rest of the world, facing the COVID related challenges has imposed restrictions in our capacity to operate and influence the region. However, thanks to everyone’s strong motivation and an adaptation of our programs to a hybrid mode, we were able to deliver a rich and dynamic
agenda with new and renewed products in response to emerging needs.

The region suffers from multiple crises at this time, mainly remaining conflicts, increasingly severe effects of climate change, the COVID pandemic, and the spillovers of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Regional political dialogue continues to be fragmented and convoluted, making the socio-economic transformation of the region more of a dream than a reality.

Yet, the cost of inaction is unmeasurable and, more than ever, countries in the Northern Mediterranean must show a “proof of pragmatism” in launching multiple collaboration initiatives with Southern countries, while supporting all efforts for further advancing South-South cooperation. Multiple bilateral alliances are to be encouraged in this context, while continuing to support wider Mediterranean regional dialogues....and that is where the CMI finds its purpose and “raison d’etre” fully justified.

Producing groundbreaking technical work and moving beyond knowledge to trigger project incubation will continue to motivate us in the years to come. With the youth at the heart of all we do, and with a higher share of females leading on knowledge and enterprise creation, the CMI will continue enhancing its agility to provide responses while multiplying partnership alliances, all geared towards enhancing Mediterranean integration. Again, many thanks for staying with us one more year and for supporting the new UN Center for Mediterranean Integration.
The Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) is a multi-partner institution where international development agencies, national governments, local authorities, and civil society, including youth, convene to exchange knowledge, discuss public policies, and identify regional solutions to address regional challenges in the Mediterranean.

On July 1st, 2021, and twelve years after its creation, initially as a partnership between the World Bank and the French government, the CMI officially joined the United Nations (UN), hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), while maintaining the same membership and governance.
THE CMI

CREATE A NEUTRAL SPACE FOR DIALOGUE AND INFLUENCE

- **Governance:** Members jointly decide on strategic orientations and actions. As of July 2021, the Center’s chairmanship rotates every three years among the Members, starting with the Kingdom of Morocco which was elected to the Presidency of the Oversight Committee for the period between 2021 and 2024.

- **Financing:** Financial contributions from the Center’s Members and Partners through a multi-donor trust fund are channeled to deliver the Center’s programs and activities. The World Bank continues to provide a direct line of financing. In addition, numerous Partners provide additional in-kind and co-financing contributions in connection with specific thematic programs.

- **Staffing:** The CMI team includes staff currently affiliated with the UN and staff detached from other institutions, as well as UN contractuals.

- **Knowledge for Action:** Technical reports and policy briefs, thematic hubs, and communities of practitioners generate common frameworks and peer-to-peer learning, which reinforce the capacities of the Center to influence decision-making and lead to development reforms and progress in the region.

- **Regional Project Incubation:** Going beyond the country-by-country approach, the CMI provides technical assistance, capacity building, and a digital platform that facilitates the incubation and matching for the financing of start-ups and regional investment projects with the potential to transform the region.

OVER A DECADE OF PARTNERSHIPS FOR KNOWLEDGE AND INFLUENCE

- **2009**
  - Foundation of the CMI in Marseille (2009-2012)

- **2012**
  - Members sign second Memorandum of Understanding (2012-2015)

- **2015**
  - Members sign third Memorandum of Understanding (2015-2018)

- **2018**
  - Members sign fourth Memorandum of Understanding (2018-2021)

- **2019**
  - The CMI marked its 10-year anniversary

- **2021**
  - The CMI joins the United Nations, hosted by UNOPS
The CMI by the Numbers
September 1, 2019 – February 28, 2022

Widespread Impact

The CMI Works Only at the Regional Level

Under the auspices of the UN, the CMI has been entrusted with a renewed mandate: Implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17, Partnerships in the Mediterranean region.

By acting as a knowledge-sharing institution that links ideas to policymaking and reforms, the CMI benefits from the technical support of the World Bank and the other Member countries and institutions. By focusing on integration beyond national borders, from a development perspective, the CMI’s agenda supports the objectives of the European Commission and the Union for the Mediterranean, and operates in partnership with Mediterranean research institutes, think tanks, and other regional and local entities.

The CMI Adds Unique Value

- The CMI is the only Mediterranean initiative bringing together international development agencies, national governments, local authorities, and civil society, including youth.
- The CMI fosters synergies between its members, international and Mediterranean technical partners, and civil society.
- The CMI leverages technical expertise, financial resources, and networks.
- The CMI offers a neutral platform for dialogue using its multi-country and multi-partner model.
- Through regional integration, the CMI aims at promoting inclusive growth and reducing poverty, as well as contributing to convergence by reducing income and well-being disparities between the two shores of the Mediterranean.
- The CMI promotes the scaling-up of successful practices and projects at the local, national, and regional levels.
The CMI aims at playing a highly influential role through the expertise and technical rigor it brings to Mediterranean knowledge exchange. By building synergies among Mediterranean stakeholders, the CMI’s program aims to have a transformational effect in the region.

In pursuing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17, Partnerships in the Mediterranean, the CMI’s main goal remains to enhance Mediterranean integration. Socioeconomic transformation, resilience to conflict, and proactively fighting climate change, along with gender and youth as transversal dimensions, will remain the overarching objectives of the CMI to be achieved through regional partnerships.

A Scientific Council composed of a group of twelve renowned Mediterranean academics and experts in various areas relevant to the CMI’s work was created in May 2021. The Scientific Council provides quality control and scientific advice on overall strategy and specific thematic issues, and assists in liaising with academics, think tanks, and research centers.
2 OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

1 This report covers the period between September 1, 2020, and February 28, 2022.
SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Co-Development & Integration

Human Capital & Mobility
Regional Context

The global pandemic has prompted a re-examination of existing development strategies for integration, growth, and development. The countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEMCs) have seen their development trajectories toned down, and in order to promote recovery as well as more equitable income generation, a reset is essential.

Meanwhile, before the pandemic started, studies focusing on regional integration in the Mediterranean region had already highlighted the largely untapped potential to increase trade flows of goods and services, foreign direct investment, and mobility of people. Beyond trade integration, the region needs greater South-South and North-South cooperation for the promotion of regional investment flows to finance joint projects and enable speedier technology and know-how transfers on a larger scale than achieved so far. This strengthening of regional cooperation is essential to encourage North-South and South-South co-production systems, to launch large-scale projects in specific sectors (energy, agriculture and agri-food, pharmaceutical industry) and thus favor the socio-economic transformation of the region.

The CMI has thus developed an enhanced strategy for Mediterranean integration in today’s post-COVID context. This approach views the Mediterranean as being at the crossroads between three continents—Europe, Africa, and Asia—with the additional perspective of vertical integration between the European Union, the Middle East, North and Sub-Saharan Africa. In this Context, the CMI has delivered a series of knowledge products developed by the CMI staff in cooperation with its partners.

Objectives

The co-development and integration theme is focused on building a new framework for sustained regional integration in the Mediterranean. The main objectives are to rethink economic and social policies under a regional integration approach and to provide Mediterranean post-COVID sustainable development directions. The theme emphasizes how trade liberalization should be implemented in the context of a comprehensive policy package that also aims to achieve social and distributive goals.

The program is built around two areas:

- Produce knowledge on socioeconomic and political economy dimensions of trade integration in the region
- Disseminate knowledge to Mediterranean stakeholders with the aim to facilitate transformational impact through regional events and workshops, together with technical partners; active dissemination campaigns on social media; and complementary analysis of critical sectors such as health, digital economy, and food security.
Lead Organization(s)
Center for Mediterranean Integration

Partner Organization(s)
Published in February 2022, the joint CMI-FEMISE report explores post-COVID opportunities for fostering growth and for deepening regional cooperation in the Mediterranean region, with a focus on five Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia). The report undertakes a meticulous and unique analysis by identifying which products, and in which sectors, Mediterranean countries could offer the intermediate goods needed by European firms. It highlights how it would be in everyone’s interest to promote the establishment of sustainable relations between European multinationals and companies in SEMCs, including forms of direct investment that empower and involve both parties, such as co-production models. At the same time, the report calls on Mediterranean countries to keep improving their competitiveness and, on the other hand, their “absorption capacity”.
In three thematic chapters, the report brings forward the analysis of how to deepen EU-Mediterranean integration by prioritizing regional value chains (RVCs), improving food security capacities, strengthening and digitalizing the health sector, and further developing the pharmaceutical sector.

Report on a Post-Pandemic Growth Strategy for Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries

The aim of this report, produced with The Growth Dialogue and released in September 2021, is to provide new ideas and policy directions for Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries in light of changes in the global economy that were already well underway but that have been made more prominent by recent events. The report highlights numerous areas where changes in current policies would yield high dividends, none more important than the role of the state. Meanwhile, the role of SMEs is considered as crucial as the necessity of improving the level of digitalization in all economies. Furthermore, the report stresses how sustainability is one of the key determinants of longer-term growth.
Reports on Enhancing Mediterranean Integration and Trading Together

The first report to present an updated view of the meaning of Mediterranean integration today, the CMI’s report on “Enhancing Mediterranean Integration”, describes the CMI’s approach to Mediterranean integration. Released in December 2020, it discusses progress made and remaining obstacles, ending with specific recommendations to enhance integration, considering current challenges. The overall approach aims at promoting growth through comprehensive trade reforms while also fostering worker mobility and encouraging foreign direct investment and cross-country public-private partnerships. In parallel, provision of regional public goods that benefit the whole region, as well as targeted initiatives aimed at protecting vulnerable income groups (e.g., refugees, unprotected children, unemployed individuals) and less-privileged geographic locations (remote, landlocked) are highlighted as being necessary to reduce and eliminate income disparities, in line with the goals of achieving social inclusion and territorial cohesion.

Building on the analytical work in preparation of the CMI’s report, the World Bank’s Middle East and North Africa Economic Update, which presents the short-term macroeconomic outlook and economic challenges facing countries in the region, was also entrusted to the CMI because of its recognized capacity as a center of excellence on integration in the region. The report, “Trading Together: Reviving Middle East and North Africa Regional Integration in the Post-COVID Era”, highlights how the COVID-19 pandemic offers an opportunity for Middle Eastern and North African countries to assess their social and economic policies aimed at strengthening trade integration. It also stresses how leveraging a regional trade integration agenda to enable domestic reforms, as a steppingstone to greater global integration, could become a new source of growth, jobs, and stability in the Middle East and North Africa.
The COVID-19 has proved to be a serious threat not only to people’s health but also to economies and societies of all countries, regardless of their level of development. This crisis presents a real challenge to the resilience of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, as it came at a time when they were already struggling to keep their economies growing, facing increasing unemployment and scarce resources. The way out of the crisis will greatly depend on how countries in the region prioritize their actions, and on how they integrate and cooperate with each other in key sectors.

Following the success of the first CMI-FEMISE call for Policy Briefs, launched in May 2020, the two institutions decided to join forces again and launch a second round in December 2020. This series of Policy Briefs is produced to make a contribution towards the policymaking process by addressing the economic, social and welfare effects of COVID-19 on the EU-Mediterranean, and how Mediterranean integration can be reinforced in order to overcome the crisis and trigger further transformation in the region. During the second round, nine Policy Briefs were published, focusing on issues such as women’s empowerment, energy transition, green recovery, and migration.
Knowledge exchanges

High-Level Policy Dialogues on Integration and Post-COVID Development Strategies

The CMI’s and partners’ analytical products were discussed in a series of high-level events organized in partnership with renowned international institutions. These events provided a platform of dialogue between experts and policy/institutional stakeholders in order to rethink integration and sectoral strategies, and to provide Sustainable Development models in the post-COVID Mediterranean landscape. The events included renowned academic scientists, research scholars, Mediterranean stakeholders, and experts to exchange and share their thoughts on all aspects of post-COVID development. The events were:

- CMI-ITC knowledge event on “New Dimensions of Regional Integration: From Trade to Deeper Integration”, June 2021
- CMI-World Bank knowledge event on “Trade, Employment and Post-COVID Integration in Global Value Chains (GVCs)”, July 2021
- CMI knowledge event on “Setting the Stage: A New Vision for the Mediterranean”, March 2021
- CMI-AMSE-Growth dialogue event on “A Post-Pandemic Growth Strategy for Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries”, December 2021
- CMI session at the ANIMA annual conference on “Sectors of the Future”, November 2021

Key figures

- 4 flagship reports
- 9 Policy briefs
- 7 knowledge exchange dialogues
Regional Context

Youth in both the North and the South of the Mediterranean, with their dynamism and demographic weight, represent a major asset for socioeconomic transformation in the region. Yet, young populations throughout the region are experiencing a threefold exclusion on the economic, social and political levels. High unemployment and a lack of opportunities to take part in civic and political life are creating a growing sentiment of frustration, with possible negative consequences including informal work, resorting to extremisms and violence, and irregular migration.

Moreover, with the youth bulge predicted to explode, and education of uneven quality that has inadequately prepared students for entrance into the region’s changing labor markets, these challenges will be further exacerbated. Both a massive investment in human capital and a rethinking of mobility are needed to foster youth inclusion and enable them to become actors for change, by equipping them with the right mix of knowledge and skills required in today’s societies.

Objectives

The main objective of the program is to promote socio-economic transformation in the region by improving the quality of human capital and fostering the mobility of knowledge and people. The program thereby aims to improve the quality of education, from early childhood through to higher education, focusing on 21st century skills, and within this, to promote increased, smarter mobility, not only of people, but also of knowledge and skills.

The program is structured around the following areas and objectives:

- Internationalization of tertiary education: Improve the quality and relevance of tertiary education, notably by internationalizing its content and methods.
- Rethinking mobility: Promote and stimulate debate and discussions around the new narrative on education, labor mobility, and employability, to enable the youth to become engines of change for the region.
- Technical vocational education and training: Contribute to the regional dialogue and joint efforts to improve the quality and pertinence of technical and vocational training.

Lead Organization(s)

Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)

Partner Organization(s)

Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF), Aix-Marseille University (AMU), British Council, Club de Madrid, European Investment Bank (EIB), Qatar Foundation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED), International Telematic University (UNINETTUNO), Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Policy Center for the New South (PCNS), the City of Marseille, World Bank Group
Region’s First Report on “Internationalization of Tertiary Education in the Middle East and North Africa”
The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region could benefit from increased internationalization of its tertiary educational sector, yet it has not taken full advantage of this opportunity. A CMI-World Bank regional report on “Internationalization of Tertiary Education in the Middle East and North Africa” was conceived to provide a crucial baseline in research on the status of internationalization of tertiary education in the region, and it maintains that it is a critical part of the reforms needed in education and training in the region. The report details the benefits of internationalization, assesses the current state of tertiary educational institutions across MENA, and provides some policy recommendations, including a first analysis of internationalization in the COVID-19 context. The report suggests that, despite the challenges that the crisis presents, it may also provide an opportunity for MENA to accelerate its efforts to internationalize its tertiary educational systems, notably through internationalization “at home” and mobility of knowledge.

Regional Policy Dialogue on Internationalization of Tertiary Education in MENA

On the basis of its report “Internationalization of Tertiary Education in MENA”, the CMI launched a regional policy dialogue on the internationalization of tertiary education in MENA through the co-organization of two online events: “Internationalization of Tertiary Education in MENA in the COVID-19 Context” with the Qatar Foundation, in partnership with the Tethys Consortium of Euro-Mediterranean Universities, and with the participation of UNESCO (January 2021), and “A Quality Higher Education for All in the Mediterranean: Towards a Renewed Higher Education Agenda” with the UfM (June 2021). The events offered space for dialogue amongst representatives of tertiary educational institutions, governments and experts, to discuss the role of internationalization in boosting the quality and relevance of higher education in the region, and to share best practices and recommendations, notably regarding the strategies and the responses developed to meet the challenges engendered by the COVID-19 crisis.
Contribution to the Wider Policy Dialogue on Internationalization and Other Key Topics in Higher Education

The CMI presented its report “Internationalization of Tertiary Education in MENA”, raising awareness about the benefits of internationalization and highlighting opportunities for MENA to “catch up” with other regions in internationalization, through participation in partners’ regional events:

- Anna Lindh Foundation’s forum on “Young Mediterranean Voices Euro-Mediterranean Debate and Policy Forum” (September 2020)
- Anna Lindh Foundation’s event on “Empty Classrooms: Impact of COVID-19 on Education” (September 2020)
- AMU’s 2020 “Virtual General Assembly of the Tethys Consortium of Euro-Mediterranean Universities” (October 2020)
- UNESCO’s consultation on “The Role of Internationalization in Shaping Global Citizenship” (October 2021)
- UNESCO’s “Third Annual Meeting of the GCED Actors’ Platform” (October 2021)

Key figures

1 flagship reports
2 online events
Participation in 6 partners’ events
The third “Cycle Économique” discussion series hosted by the CMI was launched in November 2018 and concluded in June 2020. It gathered intellectuals from both shores of the Mediterranean with the aim of proposing a new approach to mobility to enable youth to become the engine of change in the region, by contributing to a new discourse – around education, employability, and mobility – appealed for in the “Commitments for a New Ambition in the Mediterranean” made at the Summit of the Two Shores in Marseille, in June 2019.
The policy paper “Youth, Actors for Change: Rethinking Mobility”, which highlights the opportunities that a revisited concept of mobility can offer in responding to youth’s aspirations in the Mediterranean, was published in 2021 based on the discussions. It argues that the revisited concept of mobility – of knowledge, skills, and people – can be a path to empowerment for youth, notably through the promotion of personal development, openness to the world and the acquisition of soft and 21st century skills.

Revisiting the Concept of Mobility in the Mediterranean

Based on the findings and recommendations of its policy paper “Youth, Actors for Change: Rethinking Mobility”, the CMI presented to relevant stakeholders its new narrative which focuses on the idea that mobility – of knowledge, skills, and people – represents a path to empowerment for youth in the Mediterranean. Concrete solutions and recommendations focusing on the education-mobility-employability-labor market nexus presented in the paper were shared on several occasions, including:

- CMI-PCNS webinar “Perspectives on mobility and migration in the Mediterranean” (October 2021)
- PCNS’ Atlantic Dialogue (December 2021)
- Plan Bleu’s MED2050 Workshop on the Demography-International Migration-Sustainable Development Nexus (December 2021)
- The joint AMU-City of Marseille-CMI workshop on “Positive mobilities:
towards a new mobility model for Mediterranean youth” organized as part of the Mediterranean Worlds Forum (February 2022)

- The joint Istituto Diplomatico Internazionale-EURISPES’ event (February 2022)

- Two lectures on mobility and migration were also delivered to students at the University of Turin, Italy (April 2021) and the Aix-Marseille University, France (October 2021)

Exploring the Nexus between Mobility and COVID-19: Consultation on an Upcoming Regional Report

In December 2021, the CMI and the World Bank partnered-up to organize a consultative workshop discussing the preliminary findings of the forthcoming World Bank-CMI report “COVID-19 and Migration in the Mediterranean Region”. The event’s objective was to leverage feedback on the main findings and conclusions of the report. The forthcoming report explores the challenges and opportunities for mobility in the Mediterranean region following the COVID-19 outbreak and draws attention to the tension between mobility restrictions and the continued need for migrant workers in essential jobs in destination countries.

Key figures

1. Policy paper
2. Lectures on migration and mobility
3. Regional event
4. Participation in 6 partners’ events
From the end of 2021 to the beginning of 2022, the CMI contributed to the elaboration of the UfM’s 2022 regional strategy on TVET, notably through contributing to the analysis and mapping efforts undertaken to investigate the potential role of higher education and TVET systems to tackle the issues of youth unemployment and skills mismatch prevailing in the Mediterranean. The CMI presented its approach to TVET, which focused on the cooperation between TVET centers from the North and the South of the Mediterranean and the private sector, with the goal of co-creation of curriculum and harmonization of certifications. In this framework, the CMI participated in several meetings of the Steering Committee in charge of drafting the strategy (December 2021 and January 2022) and in the regional event on “Higher Education and Vocational Training as Tools for Employability: Which Strategies for the UfM Region?” (January 2022).
CONFLICT: FORCED DISPLACEMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE
Water
Energy
Territorial Resilience
Regional Context

In 2020, 84.4 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide according to UNHCR, 26.4 million of them being refugees. The Eastern Mediterranean region is one of the world’s regions hosting the largest numbers of refugees, as well as internally displaced people. While Palestine and Iraq struggle with internal displacement, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) host almost 6 million Syrian refugees, as well as other nationalities. In addition to this, while Turkey is the world’s largest host of refugees in absolute terms, with 3.7 million, Lebanon is where the ratio of refugees to population is the highest (1 to 8).

Most displaced populations live in cities rather than in camps, and host countries have to combine efforts to protect the displaced with actions to support the host communities’ recovery from the new crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent need for economic recovery. Lockdown measures put in place in many countries led to closure of businesses and halt of economic activities, and the temporary closure of some economic sectors – such as tourism – brought on disruption in supply chains leading to a decrease in economic activity. It is estimated that 4.4 million host community households and 1.1 million refugee or IDPs households from the KRI, Jordan and Lebanon, have fallen into poverty as a result. With rising unemployment and an increase in vulnerable households, public authorities are now trying to find ways to support the economic pitfall that will emerge.

Objectives

The program aims to increase regional knowledge and improve the technical capacities of local authorities and decision-makers in developing solutions for forced displacement in the Eastern Mediterranean. The program adopts a programmatic and multi-partner approach focusing on two pillars:

- Increasing technical capacities of host municipalities through the CMI-managed Host Municipalities Learning Network (HMLN)
- Enabling a local socioeconomic environment that encourages inclusion of forcibly displaced peoples in host communities by mobilizing the international, national, and local private sectors, with a special focus on youth and women.

Given the unprecedented circumstances related to the international outbreak of COVID-19 in February 2020, the program has since used a special lens to look at the new challenges deriving from the global pandemic in order to address solutions for local economic recovery.
### Lead Organization(s)

Center for Mediterranean Integration

### Partner Organization(s)

SELECTED OUTCOMES

Building Capacities of Host Communities: The CMI’s Host Municipalities Learning Network (HMLN)

Municipal Networking Strengthened Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic
Despite the need to switch to online tools for learning and exchanging, the Host Municipalities Learning Network (HMLN) has kept growing since its creation in 2016. By 2022, the HMLN includes more than 170 local and central authorities actively exchanging within country sub-groups in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Turkey. The HMLN is steered by six coordinators, elected by other HMLN members in their respective countries, who continuously communicate with the CMI for coordination and to ensure that municipal demands are met. In addition to this, another 53 technical municipal staff are considered “core members” and periodically involved in internal consultations with the CMI to agree on thematic exchanges and next steps.

From September 2020 to February 2022, 168 representatives of local and central authorities from the Middle East, Turkey, and North Africa participated in HMLN cross-regional activities: online webinars, online trainings, and sharing of experiences.

**Municipal Networks Join Forces to Improve Municipal Technical Capacities and Networking**

The CMI continued its partnership with the Connective Cities network, managed by the GIZ, to enhance the technical capacities of municipalities from the Middle East and North Africa on job creation and economic development. The CMI and Connective Cities co-organized a knowledge-sharing event on “Local Economic Development and Job Creation in MENA” that facilitated sharing of best practices and determined support needed for municipal projects. They also hosted one technical webinar on “How to prepare a successful project funding proposal”, showing municipal practitioners how to write project proposals and how to submit them for funding, as part of the efforts to support host municipalities in developing and implementing local projects for economic recovery.
Technical Capacities of Municipal Staff Increased on Local Economy Recovery and Partnerships with the Private Sector

In response to requests from municipalities, the CMI organized a six-day online technical training for technical municipal staff on the topic of “Approaches, Methods and Tools for Host Municipalities to engage with the Private Sector”. The training walked participants from 49 municipalities from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Turkey through every step needed to develop a private sector engagement strategy, including SWOT analysis, city marketing, and ways to support local businesses in the aftermath of COVID-19.

Through hands-on exercises and working groups, the training also led to the creation of 26 municipal strategies for private sector engagement, currently under implementation by the municipalities. The CMI also organized three country-level one-day trainings for municipalities from Jordan, Palestine, and Lebanon on the topic of regulations for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). The training sessions were held in collaboration with experts from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and aimed at showing regulations for establishing a PPP and provided a space for discussion between municipalities and PPP professionals.
Informing Operations with HMLN Lessons Learned for Increased Impact in Local Economic Development

In the context of the much-needed local recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, the CMI organized an internal meeting with the World Bank titled “From Knowledge to Action: Supporting Operations with Recommendations, Needs and Priorities from Host Local Authorities on Private Sector Engagement”. The exchange aimed to show local actions undertaken by municipalities members of the HMLN, feed this knowledge into operations on the ground, and discuss additional needs for enhanced support. The CMI continued its collaboration with the World Bank by presenting the HMLN best practice in a webinar hosted by the World Bank’s Community-Driven Development Global Solutions Group (GSG) and the World Bank Rural Livelihoods and Agriculture Employment GSG titled “How Can Municipalities Hosting Refugees Work with the Private Sector for Economic Recovery?”. The webinar highlighted the importance of municipal networking and learning through the examples of the HMLN member municipalities of Gaziantep, Turkey; Ramallah, Palestine; and Irbid, Jordan.

Key figures

| 168  | municipal staff participated in trainings and exchanges |
| 26   | municipal strategies created on private sector engagement |
| 6    | technical training over 6 sessions |
| 7    | technical webinars |
Partnership with Microsoft Philanthropies Improved the Digital Skills of Municipal Staff and Communities

Following the COVID-19 pandemic and the new norm of online learning, the CMI partnered with Microsoft Philanthropies to fill the digital gap and improve the digital skills of populations in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Turkey. This collaboration led to the creation of the joint CMI-Microsoft Learning Platform, where municipal staff members of the HMLN and their colleagues can benefit from free Microsoft-certified e-learning courses on digital literacy, Office 365, and employability. In 2022, this training offer will become compulsory for employees of some municipalities, such as the Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality in Turkey. Following the strengthened capacity of municipal staff, the CMI and Microsoft Philanthropies are preparing for a second phase of this program starting in Spring 2022, where learning will be scaled up to include local youth from the refugee and host communities on digital literacy, Microsoft 365, employability, freelancing, and digital marketing. Training local youth on freelancing and digital marketing was considered a priority by all HMLN members, who wish to provide local home-based businesses with more growth and sales opportunities to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.
Learning on Early Childhood Care and Education for Local Economic Recovery

The CMI partnered with experts from the World Bank to launch a new workstream on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in contexts of forced displacement. A first webinar on “Early Childhood Care and Education for Refugees and Host Communities: Examples from Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey” was organized to show best practices in the region and determine future exchanges. The webinar gathered more than 120 practitioners from local authorities, governments, local organizations, and INGOs, with the auspices to create a community of practice around sub-topics identified in the open discussion. The CMI is holding consultations with partners in order to organize follow-up activities on the themes of the content and quality of ECCE for displaced children, and the role of parents and local communities in improving the ECCE offer in forced displacement settings. In addition to this, the CMI took part in the launch of the new “Mediterranean Children’s Movement” initiated by several influential figures from across the Mediterranean region. The CMI’s contribution was geared toward explaining the importance of quality education for forcibly displaced and refugee children, which will allow them to successfully integrate into the job market in the near future and therefore build economically secure prospects.
Global Partners Informed on the Role of Local Authorities in Implementing the Global Compact for Refugees

The CMI continued its partnership with UNICEF, OECD, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UCLG, the Mayors Migration Council, UNCTAD, IOM, and WHO to present the results of the joint guidance document on “Local Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees—A Gateway to Existing Ideas, Resources and Capacities for Cities Across the World”, with a chapter on local economic development for the inclusion of refugees, inspired by results from the HMLN. The document was at the center of the policy discussion on “What makes a migrant and refugee-inclusive city a more sustainable one?”, held at the European Development Days in 2021, where municipalities shared their experiences in including refugees as part of their city actions for achieving Sustainable Development Goals, and showcased the added value of the CMI in guiding such efforts with sound principles for refugees’ socio-economic inclusion.

Key figures

- 5 learning paths offered on the CMI-Microsoft Learning Platform
- 17 municipalities from 5 countries involved in digital skills training
- 3 online events
- 1 guidance document disseminated with 9 partners
**Regional Context**

The Mediterranean region is the most water scarce region in the world and one of the most vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather events, which is fueling regional instability and migration. However, the region also has considerable potential for climate change mitigation and adaptation, which are common concerns for its future.

Combating water scarcity and fighting climate change in the Mediterranean region could be conducive to job creation and entrepreneurship, particularly among Mediterranean youth, with clear knock-on effects on regional instability deriving from unemployment, disenfranchisement, and migration.

Targeting youth through capacity-building and green entrepreneurship opportunities revolving around water is therefore critical to leverage untapped youth potential in the region with positive socio-economic and environmental outcomes.

**Objectives**

The program is structured around three pillars:

- Enhancing water security through a better-informed public and foresighted governance and management
- Preventing water scarcity and supporting adaptation to and mitigation of climate change in the Mediterranean
- Increasing green entrepreneurship with a focus on water security and improving conditions for youth employment in the water sector

**Lead Organization(s)**

Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)

**Partner Organization(s)**

Flagship Report on Water Security Nexus in North Africa (Water-Migration-Climate Change)

Funded by the UK Government and in partnership with IWMI, CIHEAM-Bari, and CEWAS, the CMI developed a flagship report to better understand the water security nexus in an interdependent world, building a stronger understanding of cross-sector security issues (food, water, environmental, migratory, demographic) in North African countries and their impacts on...
human mobility. The report focuses on increasing the evidence base of water, migration, and climate change nexus. It includes a regional-level literature review on water, migration, and climate change, which helps in the development of an analytical framework and the identification of key indicators, actors, and processes in the water, environment, and human security nexus in the respective countries (Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia), as well as a better understanding of the complexity between water security, migration, and climate change. This evidence-based analytical work is completed by four local case studies covering selected geographical areas of Morocco and Tunisia.

The objective of this study is to help researchers better understand and policy makers better address ways of mitigating the multiplier effects of possible climate shocks, and to put in place more robust policy measures to tackle long-term trends, in particular regarding youth and rural development. As such, key findings and results of the overall Water Security Nexus study will be discussed with Mediterranean youth experts in a youth forum in March 2022, as well as with regional stakeholders in a regional forum in March 2022.

New Data Sets Assessing Future Drought Characteristics under a Changing Climate for Morocco

As part of the Water Security Nexus study funded by the UK Government, new data sets were developed in consultation with key government agencies. From these base data sets, new national-level climate change data and maps were generated covering various indicators that were identified by key stakeholders as important to their operations. These datasets were then
New Study on Water Accounting for Souss Massa Basin (Morocco)

This study brought a detailed focus using a framework known as Water Accounting+ to one river basin that is under great water stress – the Souss Massa watershed. Water Accounting (WA) is a method for bridging the gap between natural water resource management and productive water use by providing comprehensive, consistent, and comparable data on water for policy and decision-making in order to promote sustainable and equitable water resource management and transparent water governance.

Key figures

- 1 flagship report
- 3 countries targeted
- 3 study reports produced
- 3 stakeholder’s workshops
MedYWat (Mediterranean Youth for Water) is a network of young water professionals from across the Mediterranean region, supported by the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI). The network gathers over 192 young Mediterranean water researchers, entrepreneurs, and activists working on solving the water challenges in the region. This network was launched by the CMI in March 2017 and has been growing ever since.

During the pandemic, the network maintained its activities, and co-organized two virtual World Water Day youth regional workshops focusing respectively on water and climate change (March 2020) and water and migration (March 2021), in addition to their contribution to analytical products and knowledge exchange activities.
CMI World Water Day Youth Regional Workshop on Valuing Water

This yearly CMI event aims to stimulate intergenerational learning between young Mediterranean water practitioners and senior experts. This year’s edition involved and supported MedYWat members and fostered their collaboration with key regional water stakeholders. The workshop also allowed for discussions and sharing of the analytical work produced by both MedYWat and the CMI (including the Water Security Nexus project) with key partners, policy makers, and regional stakeholders.

Incubating Green Water Youth Start-Ups
In partnership with CEWAS Middle East, a water and sanitation business and start-up incubator, and MedYWat, the CMI focused on fostering and incubating green water youth entrepreneurial projects in the region. Through a bootcamp, young entrepreneurs were accompanied on the path to launch innovative water and sanitation businesses. As a result, three promising solutions have been developed and seed funded. They are now ready for scaling-up.

**[MedYWat Training] Talking about Science to a Non-Specialist Audience**

In partnership with École de la Médiation (ESTIM) and Universcience, the CMI organized a training course for the members of the MedYWat network. Centered around “Talking about Science to a Non-specialist Public” the training course gathered twelve MedYwat members and focused on enhancing their communication when addressing non-expert audiences and decision makers.

**Key figures**

- 1 youth regional workshop
- 3 youth entrepreneurial projects incubated
- 2 working papers produced
- 1 training course organized
Regional Context

Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEM) countries are endowed with natural resources that provide opportunities for the production of low-carbon energy. Although the region is one of the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, it also offers great potential for climate change mitigation, given its abundant solar resources, stock of unused flat land, and proximity to international markets with ambitious emission reduction targets such as those in Europe.

The time has come for a deeper Euro-Mediterranean energy market integration. As the European Commission has unveiled its Green Deal, SEM countries must seize the opportunity to align with the EU’s objectives. The creation of a Euro-Mediterranean regional electricity market would increase power system flexibility as it would expand the area over which supply and demand must be balanced in real time, making it more likely that the resources are available when needed.

Objectives

The overall objective is to support the transition to green growth in the Mediterranean by sharing knowledge on policy, raising awareness of the benefits of Mediterranean energy market integration, and contributing to the analytical work necessary to support energy transition in the region, including by providing a dialogue forum that is conducive to investment project incubation.

To reach this objective, in 2015 the CMI launched the Mediterranean Forum on Electricity and Climate Change, a permanent discussion platform for countries, international organizations, regulators, and electric companies. Forum events and publications cover such topics as the role of Mediterranean integration in implementation of the Paris Agreement, the benefits of regional energy market integration for expansion of renewable energy, and regulatory changes required to facilitate energy trade in the Mediterranean region. Since then, the scope of the forum was broadened to cover other forms of energy, such as hydrogen, recognizing the need for energy sector integration.
The pandemic is leading to rethinking regional integration, and the recovery offers opportunities to trigger favorable economic, social, and environmental effects. One of such changes following the pandemic is related to energy. There are three essential initial points that provide an impulse for the analysis throughout the SEM countries. First, the rapid population growth, together with the need for economic recovery and the digitalization trend, means that electricity demand will continue to increase rapidly in the coming years. Second, renewable energy has shown remarkable resilience during the
pandemic and therefore the energy transition has already started and must be accelerated. Third, with the new EU Green Deal, there is a unique opportunity for SEM countries to adapt and join such energy transition.

Therefore, the report discusses post-COVID opportunities and actions that would be required to seize them. It also presents a set of recommendations to adopt and operationalize a Mediterranean Green Deal in the energy sector.

Key findings of the report were presented in high-level regional summits, including:

- MedaWeek Barcelona: Mediterranean Week of Economic Leaders where the CMI took part in the Mediterranean Green and Renewable Energy Summit (November 2021)
- Blue Planet Economy European Maritime Forum 2021 (October 2021)
- Circle the Med: Mediterranean Hybrid Forum 2021 (October 2021)

Assessing Investments and Regulations Needed to Establish a Mediterranean Hydrogen Market

The CMI and the World Bank organized a series of webinars to increase the capacities of countries and regional organizations bordering the Mediterranean. The webinar series on “Knowledge Exchange on Green Hydrogen for the Mediterranean Region” promoted the exchange of information among key players, assessed investments needed to establish a Mediterranean hydrogen market, and identified regulatory requirements.
Monitoring the Policy and Legislative Framework and Informing the “Clean Energy for All Europeans” Package

This series included four webinars and engaged Mediterranean stakeholders in:

- Discussing their hydrogen strategies and sharing knowledge to establish roadmaps
- Unlocking the potential for trade in green hydrogen in the Mediterranean region
- Assessing the role of hydrogen in COVID recovery plans
- Discussing how green hydrogen would create opportunities for innovation and technological development in the Mediterranean region.

When the CMI published the briefing paper on “Clean Energy for All Europeans’ Package: Implications and Opportunities for the Mediterranean” in 2019, some elements of the package were still being defined, and, since then, there have been developments (e.g., the EU Green Deal, COVID Recovery Plans) that necessitate revisions. The CMI has periodically published insight bulletins, to inform members of the CMI Forum on Energy and Climate Change about energy and climate policy developments in the region and their implications for the creation of an integrated Euro-Mediterranean energy market.
Weighing on the Mediterranean Energy and Climate Policy Dialogue

In February 2022, the Union for the Mediterranean presented the UfM Roadmap for Action on Energy at its Annual Energy Platform Meeting. As UfM’s critical technical partner, the CMI was asked to participate in the meeting and provided input to help shape the roadmap. The CMI highlighted its willingness to contribute to and/or lead concrete actions, always aligned with the UfM roadmap, that could involve issues on which it has developed expertise such as greening the maritime transport sector, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and its impact on Mediterranean trade, and Green Hydrogen strategies in the Mediterranean.

Key figures

1. flagship report discussed at 3 major regional events
2. knowledge exchanges
3. community of practice on green hydrogen
4. Support shaping UfM Roadmap
Regional Context

There is a growing recognition that climate change poses a major economic, social, and existential threat to communities across the globe. The Mediterranean region has been classified as one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change. We observe this fact in urban areas facing more flooding, in coastal areas experiencing sea level rise and soil erosion, and in agricultural lands no longer able to sustain essential food crops. Ongoing climatic events such as droughts, heat waves, and changes in rainfall patterns pose threats to food security in the Mediterranean region.

Building territorial resilience has become essential to adapt to stresses and shocks, whether the stresses are climatic, socio-economic, or pandemic-related. Enabling local resilience is a forward-looking, multi-spatial, multi-sectoral model that recognizes the complexities of and connection between rural and urban territories, and the interdependencies between the different sectors including agriculture, energy, water, transport, and others.

Objectives

The overall objective of the Territorial Resilience to Climate Change program is to increase the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within Mediterranean territories to survive, adapt, and continue growing, no matter what kind of climatic or environmental stresses and shocks they experience.

With that goal in mind, the program aims to:

• Produce and disseminate knowledge of inspiring local solutions on how to address the challenges of climate change through territorial resilience in the Mediterranean region

• Increase city and territories institutional capacity to manage climate change risks and develop sustainable climate policies and strategies

• Empower the youth by promoting a new generation of climate leaders to strengthen the resilience of communities and territories to disruptive risks, shocks and stresses across all Mediterranean regions

Lead Organization(s)

Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)

Partner Organization(s)

French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Agence des Villes et des Territoires Méditerranéens (AViTeM), International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), Cities Alliance, Cooperation for urban mobility in the developing world (CODATU), European Investment Bank (EIB), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), International Union for Nature Conservation in the Mediterranean (IUCN Med), MedCities, Plan Bleu, Region Sud, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), UN Habitat, World Bank Group.
SELECTED OUTCOMES

Digital Revitalization of the Agri-Food Sector

Knowledge exchanges
Analytical and advisory products

Highlighting the Role of Digital Technologies in the Development of the Agri-food Sector in Mashreq Countries
In partnership with the American University of Beirut (AUB), the World Bank, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UN-ESCWA), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), CMI contributed to a study seeking to shed the light on the significant role that digital technologies can play in the development of the agri-food sector in Mashreq countries in the face of a quickly changing climate and water scarcity, and on a wider scale on food security, job creation, expanded export potential, as well as social stability and inclusion. The report was launched during a webinar in June 2021, where high officials from the region and experts exchanged knowledge on the current stakes of the agri-food sector within the technological burst, as well as means to harness the potential of digital agriculture in Mashreq.

**Key figures**

- flagship report
- webinar

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**Enabling Mediterranean Cities to Climate Action (MedCCA) Initiative**

**Engaging in Multi-Partner Initiative to Promote Climate Action in Eastern and Southern Mediterranean Cities**
The CMI and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) in partnership with AViTEM, MedCities, and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) continued their commitment towards the initiative on “Enabling Mediterranean Cities to Climate Action” (MedCCA). As such, Mediterranean cities were engaged in understanding the key risks and vulnerabilities posed by climate change in urban areas and determining priority actions to enhance resilience; identifying available and needed resources, capacity gaps, and existing municipal responses; and mapping needs after capacity assessment, as well as increasing technical municipal capacities to access climate finances.

**Understanding Climate Risks and Evaluating Urban Resilience Priorities in Seven Mediterranean Cities**

Focusing on seven cities in the South-East Mediterranean region, Oujda (Morocco), Sfax (Tunisia), Mostaganem (Algeria), Luxor (Egypt), Hebron (Palestine), Zarqa (Jordan), and Saida (Lebanon), a detailed questionnaire followed by a series of bilateral online meetings with local authorities were held virtually from December 2020 to January 2021. These actions aimed to establish strong linkage with the local authorities, validate key findings of the questionnaires on climate risks and vulnerabilities, and understand the municipal climate priority actions. As a result, Climate City Profiles were developed to better understand the status quo of the selected cities in terms of climate engagement and identified priorities.

### Key figures

- 7 cities targeted
- 7 bilateral meetings with local authorities
- 7 climate city profiles generated
Launched the Mediterranean Youth for Climate Action (MedYCA) Network

The “Mediterranean Youth for Climate Action – MedYCA” network was officially launched in September 2021 by the CMI, in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). In a webinar kicking off with the support of the Cli’Mates team, an international youth-led think tank on climate change, youth from the Mediterranean region were invited to participate in a team building game where they had to put themselves in the positions/roles of key players in international climate negotiations. Through this new community of practice, the CMI aimed to promote a “learning partnership” between youth working on climate-related disciplines and to establish an on-going relationship of knowledge exchange.
Youth Workshop on Assessing Climate and Environmental Stresses in the Mediterranean

The webinar “Assessing Climate and Environmental Stresses in the Mediterranean Region: Scientific Evidences and Socio-economic Impact” took place in October 2020, and provided the youth with knowledge on climate challenges the Mediterranean region will be facing in the coming decades. During this session, climate experts presented the findings of the MedECC report on the “Risks Associated with Climate and Environmental Changes in the Mediterranean Region” and the UN ESCWA supported RICCAR “Arab Climate Change Assessment Report” on its socio-economic impacts. These presentations were followed by an open discussion on measures to be taken. As a result, 50 young participants interacted with climate experts from UN ESCWA, UfM, Plan Bleu, and IUCN.

Enhancing the Protection of Ecosystems through Youth Empowerment

Jointly organized by the IUCN program for small-scale civil society initiatives and the CMI, a webinar on “Enhancing the Protection of Ecosystems through Youth Empowerment” was held in December 2020. It explored the concept...
Empowering Mediterranean Youth to Strengthen the Governance of Ecosystems

As part of its active cooperation with IUCN, the CMI’s MedYCA network and IUCN Mediterranean organized a 2-day webinar during the IUCN Global Youth Summit in April 2021. The event sought to:

• Showcase scientific evidence on the drivers and risks of climate change in the Mediterranean region, as well as its socio-economic impacts on territories
• Explore the main challenges faced by youth when developing grassroot strategies for ecosystem and territorial resilience
• Provide knowledge and actionable solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation strategies
• Reflect on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the environment and ecosystems
• Explore long-lasting positive environmental change in a post-pandemic world

The discussions carried out throughout the webinar served as a basis for a one-pager synthesis on the main challenges faced by youth when developing grassroot strategies for ecosystem and territorial resilience.
Metropolitan Workshop Series

Metropolitan Territories: Understanding the Changes, Sharing Solutions, and Elaborating Strategic Integrated Approaches to Territorial Development

The Metropolitan Workshops are a joint initiative by the Agency for Sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Territories (AViTeM), the CMI and the AFD. Each workshop consists of a series of three immersive and interactive training courses targeting urban practitioners, urban planners, local government representatives, and other relevant stakeholders. In previous editions, participants had conducted field visits to Tangier, Tetouan, Greater Tunis, Tirana, Beirut. In 2021, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the encounters took place in a hybrid format with three webinars and one seminar as follows:

- Inaugural webinar of the 2021 Metropolitan series (June 2021)
- Webinar on Resilience of Mediterranean Territories (July 2021)
- Webinar Bologna Metropolis (November 2021)
- Seminar Aix-Marseille Metropolis (December 2021)

Key outputs

3 webinars
1 seminar
3 DIALOGUE OF THE TWO SHORES
Regional Context

Organized by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs at the initiative of French President Emmanuel Macron, the Dialogue of the Two Shores is an ongoing process heralding a new era in the Western Mediterranean and laying down the foundations of a different policy in the region, based on transversal dialogue between political leadership and civil society voices, paving the way towards a renewed regional cooperation, and ultimately a more inclusive Mediterranean. The initiative aspires to achieve this goal through concrete projects and solutions favoring human, economic and sustainable development in the region.

Building up on the commitments made at the 2019 Summit of the Two Shores, the Mediterranean Worlds Forum was organized in Marseille in February 2022. It brought together civil society actors from the entire Mediterranean region to develop concrete solutions to our common challenges, and move forward together towards a more prosperous, sustainable, and integrated Mediterranean. The Mediterranean Worlds Forum ended with several announcements that will be key in shaping the Mediterranean of the future.

In line with the mandate given to the CMI in 2019 by the French Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs to host a digital platform for regional project promoters, multilateral institutions, the business community, and private investors, the CMI has been actively engaged in supporting this process, throughout.

Objectives

The CMI support to the Dialogue of the Two Shores process focuses on two dimensions:

- Supporting and monitoring the implementation of regional projects led by actors of the Mediterranean civil society
- Providing technical content and federating partners

Lead Organization(s)

French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs

Partner Organization(s)

The CMI, European Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Union for the Mediterranean and the Anna Lindh Foundation, AFD, Labess, Expertise France, ANIMA, Region Sud, RISING Sud, Emerging Mediterranean, IEMed, City of Marseille, University of Aix Marseille, Aix-Marseille-Provence Métropole
SELECTED OUTCOMES

Supporting and Monitoring the Implementation of Regional Projects Led by Actors of Mediterranean Civil Society

Providing Support to the Structuring of Projects Through a Community of Practice

Incubation of regional investment projects
Networks, technical communities of practice and hubs
Capacity building

Cross-Cutting Dimensions
Gender
Youth
The CMI coordinated and led the community of stakeholders comprising eight international organizations (AFD, OECD, ALF, UFM, EU, WB, IFC, EBRD, EIB) as well as private investors on the one hand, and the promoters of regional projects on the other. The CMI thus organized regular meetings for training and technical support, pitches, discussions and networking.

• Between December 2021 and January 2022, and by streamlining project templates, the CMI gathered the necessary information to monitor the development and assess the needs of each project. This allowed for a precise diagnosis of the financial and technical needs of each project and thus helped develop a more tailored set of recommendations and assistance.

• In February 2020, the CMI organized a deep dive session in Paris, where project holders met with representatives of international organizations to identify possible avenues for technical and financial support, and to connect with other project leaders with whom synergies had been found. Parallel thematic workshops, designed to support the structuring of projects and their economic models were also held.

• Between February 2020 and March 2022, three online networking events were organized. They allowed project holders to pitch the progress of their projects and to further discuss them with international donors.

In December 2021, the CMI developed a digital platform that includes two dimensions: a public website allowing project leaders to present their projects and investors to discover them, and an intranet site which offers a secure space for direct exchanges between project leaders and investors.

Since then, the platform has been continuously expanding, in scope and influence:
• The SALAM initiative, led by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Expertise France and Labess, and supporting youth innovative micro-projects in the field of social economy and sustainable development (July 2021). The CMI platform also hosted SALAM’s consultations with youth which resulted in a series of recommendations that were presented to President Macron at the Mediterranean Worlds Forum in Marseille in February 2022.

• The Mediterranean Investors Club, Club des investisseurs de la Méditerranée du Futur, led by Region Sud, risingSUD and CEIS, joined the CMI platform. More than 60 investors are now members of an ad-hoc secured internet space created for them, where they work in synergy to identify investment opportunities in the Mediterranean (October 2021).

The CMI will continue expanding the digital platform to meet the growing demand: an enhanced space for the Mediterranean Investors’ Club, additional mini projects issued from phase two of SALAM, flagship projects such as Emerging Mediterranean, projects incubated by the CMI’s Mediterranean Youth for Water (MedYWat) network; new projects issued from the Mediterranean Worlds Forum’s call for projects and others will be added, and the platform restructured accordingly.

### Key figures

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**Youth consultations**

| 25+ | civil society projects |
The CMI at the Mediterranean Worlds Forum: Providing Technical Content and Federating Partners

Acting as a Federator of Mediterranean Partners

The CMI organized a multi-partner discussion titled “Knowing, Connecting, Investing” on the needs of regional investments, knowledge sharing and partnerships for the incubation of projects from both shores. For this occasion, the CMI gathered a group of high-level practitioners from EIB, IFC, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, IEMED and ANIMA who shared the opportunities for technical and financial support within each of their institutions with representatives from civil society.
Weighing on the Discussions about Mobility, Regional Value Chains, and Entrepreneurship

Together with the City of Marseille and the University of Aix Marseille, the CMI co-organized a workshop on the need for a revisited positive concept of mobility to strengthen the employability of young people and to enable them to become real actors of change. Inspired by the CMI’s recent report on “Youth, Actors for Change: Rethinking Mobility”, the session was an opportunity to present the main recommendation on the need for revising the concept of mobility of Mediterranean youth, notably in the areas of the labor markets and educational systems, and to generate a discussion with multiple stakeholders.

In addition, the CMI took part in several other discussions:

- Solutions to Boost Economic Exchanges in the Mediterranean, by Aix-Marseille-Provence Métropole and ANIMA Network
- Mediterranean Investors’ Club, by Region Sud and Rising Sud
- Women For Good: Putting Women Entrepreneurship at the Heart of the New Digital Revolution in the Mediterranean by Emerging Mediterranean

Key figures

2 regional events
3 partners’ events
PARTNERSHIPS

A NEW ERA WITH A RENEWED MANDATE
On July 1, 2021, the CMI officially joined the United Nations (UN) under a hosting agreement for operational and service support with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). Under the auspices of the UN, the CMI has been entrusted with a renewed mandate: implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17, Partnerships in the Mediterranean.

Under this renewed mandate, building stronger and more efficient cooperation is essential for the CMI, in order to achieve its goal of enhancing regional integration in the Mediterranean. Several developments accompanied this transition:

**THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO ELECTED CHAIR OF THE CMI’S OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR 2021-2024**

On July 1, 2021, the Kingdom of Morocco became the first member country elected to chair the CMI’s Oversight Committee for the period between 2021 and 2024, taking over from the World Bank which has undertaken this mission since the creation of the Center. This new governance model is a signal of the Members’ strong involvement in the Center’s activities.
A NEW SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

A new Scientific Council – composed of a group of twelve renowned Mediterranean academics and experts in various areas relevant to the CMI’s thematic priorities – was created in May 2021. The Scientific Council will provide quality control and scientific advice on specific thematic issues, and assist in liaising with academics, think tanks, and research centers.

BUILDING TECHNICAL ALLIANCES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND MEMBERSHIPS

The CMI formally welcomed UN-Habitat as a new member in July 2021. As a long-time partner of the CMI, the participation of UN-Habitat in strategic decision-making, particularly in connection with the forced displacement agenda, will be conducive to achieving further synergies within the UN.

The CMI continued to expand its network of partners. A partnership agreement was signed between the CMI and the Mediterranean Citizens’ Assembly Foundation (FACM), allowing both institutions to jointly work towards the materialization of their shared vision, that of a transformed and more inclusive Mediterranean. In addition, a partnership agreement was signed with the Metropole Nice Côte d’Azur, further consolidating the collaboration between the CMI and local governments of the Mediterranean region. By becoming a partner of the CMI, the Metropole Nice Côte d’Azur becomes an active contributor to the elaboration of the CMI’s strategy and actions.

In addition to pursuing its partnerships with long-time partners such as the Union for the Mediterranean, FEMISE, the Growth Dialogue or the Aix-Marseille University, the CMI remains strongly committed to building stronger technical alliances around the Mediterranean and, as such, has recently been working closely with key partners like ANIMA Investment Network – with whom a formal partnership agreement is upcoming – World Trade Organization, Microsoft Philanthropies, Policy Center for the New South, Qatar Foundation, and many others.
5 COMMUNICATIONS
COMMUNICATIONS

In 2021, the communications strategy stepped up its role covering not only the task of generating visibility and exposure to the CMI’s activities and overall agenda in a global context that continued to suffer the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also bringing its new identity to light as the Center entered its hosting by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). While firming up the new CMI image and simultaneously mitigating the unusual circumstances of the pandemic, communication has naturally become the primary tool to ensure the CMI adapted and maintained its effectiveness. Throughout the year, communication continued to increase the efficiency of knowledge sharing, give resonance to dialogue, strengthen the impact of programs, facilitate partnerships, and leverage fundraising. Communication has also been instrumental in enabling the CMI to continue its operations uninterrupted, despite the implications of the pandemic.

In 2021, the CMI communication strategy focused primarily on sharpening the new CMI identity under the hosting of UNOPS and putting the spotlight on the programmatic growth that came with this development.

Throughout the year, the CMI communication strategy continued to highlight the activities that the center has been leading and accentuating the multiple collaborations it has forged and maintained, in an effort to showcase the power of joint actions in pushing the development agenda forward in the Mediterranean region. Efforts in 2021 focused on showcasing the CMI’s results, strategizing content, and optimizing knowledge sharing.

STATISTICS DEMONSTRATE EFFECT
September 1, 2020 to February 28, 2022

HIGH ACTIVITY

- 500+ Facebook posts in English, Arabic, and French
- 1169 Tweets in English, Arabic, and French
- 12 General newsletters
- 72 Events covered live on social media
PROMOTING THE NEW CMI HOSTED BY UNOPS

On July 1st, 2021, twelve years after its creation, the CMI officially joined the United Nations (UN), hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), a new development that has taken centerstage at the communication level. To ensure extensive exposure for the CMI’s new image on the local, national and international levels, the CMI launched a wide communication campaign that reached 31,000 people across channels and reaped 53 media mentions.

EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE-SHARING OPTIONS

In 2021, due to the pandemic continuing to restrict physical mobility throughout the world, opportunities for knowledge dissemination, including peer-learning events, continued to move online and therefore increase in number. The communication department put in place efficient online knowledge sharing instruments and processes in order to guarantee that the CMI knowledge sharing agenda is continuous and on-trend:

- **Showcasing CMI’s established networks**: In the unprecedented situation dictated by the COVID-19 pandemic, operating and maintaining a well-connected network has become more challenging. The limits put on physical mobility meant that networks had to operate entirely online. Despite those challenging circumstances, the members of the CMI-managed network continued to collaborate and work together while maintaining social distance, and the CMI communication team remained mobilized to cast a light on the achievements of these networks. This was done through:
• The social media coverage of the events organized by the networks such as the “[HMLN Webinar] Regulations and Processes for Public-Private Partnerships in Municipalities”, (mentioned above) a training course that provided members of the network with technical knowledge on regulations for public-private partnership (PPP) and practical steps that municipalities have to take to partner with private companies.

• The development of a new digital training platform in collaboration with Microsoft for the members, “Host Municipalities Learning Network (HMLN)”, enhances the digital skills of the municipal staff, and builds up the capacity of those local governments to offer vocational digital training to hosted refugees.

• The dissemination and cross-promotion of the networks’ products, among which are the working papers produced yearly by the Mediterranean Youth for Water Network (MedYWat) to help increase their visibility and reach.

- Developing a thriving digital platform for regional project incubation: The CMI was selected by the French Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Jean-Yves Le Drian, to play a leadership role in monitoring the execution of the summit’s initiatives. As such, the CMI launched a digital platform providing a secure space for selected entrepreneurs to better promote their projects to the general public, while allowing international development agencies and investors to obtain more information on the projects and their financing needs, as well as providing them with a space to exchange knowledge and collaborate.
PACKAGING AND CUSTOMIZING KNOWLEDGE

The CMI’s efforts continued to focus on customizing and packaging knowledge in formats that are readily usable by decision-makers, practitioners, civil society, youth, and the media. As often as possible, the Center has made content available in Arabic, French, and English.

Live coverage of events on social media

Live tweeting/Facebook posting in three languages was provided for 72 regional, national and local events that were either fully organized and led by the CMI or where the CMI has contributed its technical expertise. In addition, working in partnership with other actors in the Mediterranean region allowed the CMI to engage in coordinated activities on social media and to produce joint communication campaigns that were disseminated to the CMI’s audience as well as the partners’ audiences. Through partnership as well, the CMI gained some influential followers such as the Maltese Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and many others.

Blogs

A total of 217 blog posts have been produced so far, most of which were published in all three languages (Arabic, French, and English). The CMI engaged with guest bloggers from civil society, partner organizations, and regional experts to generate content. Subjects have included employment, radicalization, refugees, youth, climate change, the Mediterranean energy market, education, university governance, etc. Blog posts were often cross promoted on partners’ channels.

Videos

A total of 49 videos were published this year, ranging from recordings of the online events and workshops, which allowed for wider access, to the knowledge shared during those events and video presentations highlighting the concrete results of the CMI’s multilateral collaborations in each of its programs and the impact it has had on the region.

Conference material

The CMI focused on capturing the wealth of knowledge, practices and solutions that have been exchanged throughout the various workshops. More than 1300 conference materials (experts’ PowerPoint presentations, workshop summary reports, etc.), as well as over 418 reports and studies, are now published on the CMI external website and accessible to all.
6 CMI FUNDING AND EXPENDITURES
## Overview of CMI Funding and Expenditures

### Table 1
Financial Contributions for Fiscal Years 2010-21, Covering Period between 1 September 2020 and 28 February 2022

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\(^1\) Based on information provided by partners and estimated exchange rates (includes staff, in-kind and functioning)

\(^2\) City of Marseille and offices put at the disposal of CMI in co-use with other institutions
## Table 2

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<td>Cross-Cutting Themes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,108</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>1,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed Programs and Activities from 2010-2021</td>
<td>3,954</td>
<td>3,488</td>
<td>10,968</td>
<td>18,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td>9,258</td>
<td>10,234</td>
<td>20,620</td>
<td>39,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination</td>
<td>14,637</td>
<td>2,495</td>
<td>2,550</td>
<td>19,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust Fund Balance as of 28.02.2022</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,206</td>
<td>1,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>23,895</td>
<td>12,729</td>
<td>23,170</td>
<td>59,794</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*USD 1000*)
MEMBERS OF THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE 2021

Members of the CMI Oversight Committee are responsible for overseeing the CMI’s strategy, work plan and overall budget, as well as for providing senior-level programmatic guidance on the overall orientation of the Center. Members of the CMI Oversight Committee meet on a regular basis to review and discuss the implementation of the programs and to ensure that such implementation complies with the work plan and overall budget. Starting July 1, 2021, the CMI Oversight Committee is chaired by the Kingdom of Morocco for a 3-year period.

EGYPT

- Ms. Cynthia Gabra, Research and Evaluation Officer, UN Cooperation Affairs, Ministry of International Cooperation
- Mr. Shady Rashed, Senior Economic and Trade Specialist, Ministry of International Cooperation

FRANCE

- Mr. Karim Amellal, Ambassador for the Mediterranean, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Denis Douveneau, Deputy Interministerial Delegate for the Mediterranean, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Denis Le Fers, Deputy Director, Directorate General of the Treasury, Ministry for the Economy and Finance
- Ms. Aude Pohardy, Head of the Mediterranean and Middle East Office, Directorate General of the Treasury, Ministry for the Economy and Finance
- Mr. Camille Bortolini, Deputy Head of the Mediterranean and Middle East Office, Directorate General of the Treasury, Ministry for the Economy and Finance
- Ms. Marie-Hélène Loison, Deputy Director General, Agence Française de Développement
- Mr. Christian Yoka, Director, Africa Department, Agence Française de Développement
Mr. Alain Humen, Head of the Gulf of Guinea Unit, Africa Department, Agence Française de Développement

Mr. Adrien Absolu, Project Officer for the Directorate, Africa Department, Agence Française de Développement

GREECE

Ms. Dina Kamitsi, Director, Directorate for EU External Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Vassilios Tselios, Expert Minister Counselor, C1 Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ITALY

Mr. Giuseppe Badagliacca, Counselor, Head of the Euro-Mediterranean Issues Office, Directorate General for Political Affairs and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

JORDAN

Mr. Marwan Al Refai, Secretary General, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

LEBANON

Mr. Georges Maarawi, Director General, Ministry of Finance

Ms. Fatima Khaled, Senior Tax Controller, Director General's Office, Ministry of Finance

MOROCCO – CHAIR OF THE CMI OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Mr. Mounssif Aderkaoui, Director of Studies and Financial Forecasts, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Administrative Reform

Mr. Adil Hidane, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Administrative Reform

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

Ms. Laila Sbaih Eghraib, Acting Director General of International Relations and Projects, Ministry of Finance

SPAIN

Mr. Alberto José Ucelay Urech, General Director for the Maghreb, the Mediterranean and the Middle East, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation

Mr. Manuel Gómez-Acebo, Advisor for Mediterranean Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation
TUNISIA
- Ms. Saloua Hsoumi Medjoub, Director General, Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Investment Support
- Mr. Bessem Mbarek, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Investment Support

CITY OF MARSEILLE
- Ms. Samia Ghali, Deputy Mayor
- Ms. Patricia Mallen, Acting Director, Department of International and European Relations

REGION SUD – PROVENCE-ALPES-COTE D’AZUR
- Ms. Raphaele De Giuli Morghen, Deputy Director General, Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation Department
- Mr. Guillaume Huet, Director, Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation Department

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK
- Ms. Flavia Palanza, Director, EU Neighboring Countries
- Mr. Yohann Chaigneau, Senior Policy Officer, Institutional and Policy Affairs, EU Neighboring Countries

UN-HABITAT
- Mr. Filip Decorte, Chief (oic) Programme Development Branch

UNOPS
- Mr. Moin Karim, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Director and Representative, Geneva Office
- Mr. Andrew Kirkwood, Director, Geneva Office

THE WORLD BANK
- Mr. Stefan Koeberle, Director, Strategy and Operations, Middle East and North Africa Region
- Ms. Roberta Gatti, Chief Economist, Middle East and North Africa Region

CENTER FOR MEDITERRANEAN INTEGRATION
- Ms. Blanca Moreno-Dodson, Director

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE (EEAS) (Observer)
- Mr. Julien Wallerand, Desk Officer, Regional Affairs Division, MENA Department
The Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) is a partnership where international development agencies, governments, local authorities, and civil society from around the Mediterranean convene to exchange ideas, discuss public policies, and identify regional solutions to address regional challenges in the Mediterranean.