Fostering Territorial Cohesion and Development Policies in the Mediterranean

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1. Definition of Territorial Cohesion: what theoretical assumptions?

2. Initiatives supported by CMI partners and other donors to promote urban and regional development

3. Key analytical/policy issues
1/ Definition of Territorial Cohesion: what theoretical assumptions?

- Concept driven from the New Economic Geography School, importance of agglomeration effects

- Pluralistic nature of the concept (different understandings)
  ✓ Official mission of the EU since 2009 but no official definition
  ✓ Promotion of redistributive territorial policies versus importance to support economic competitiveness
Main activities initiated by CMI members and partners to promote TC in MENA

a) Supporting the development of an enabling institutional set-up through the promotion of decentralized public service delivery

- Programs based on 2 key assumptions:
  - Need to allow the provision of a minimum level of services and opportunities for all
  - Key role of decentralization in improving territorial cohesion

- Development of programs in support of systemic transformations to strengthen government and civil society institutions for improved and accountable local service delivery
  - Ensuring more transparent and equitable intergovernmental transfers
  - Relying on performance-based grant mechanisms to improve municipal planning and infrastructure
  - Importance of TA and capacity building
2 /Main activities initiated by CMI members and partners to promote TC in MENA

b. Encouraging accessibility and spillover connectivity
   - Proximity advantage of lagging areas
   - Programs financing transport infrastructure while supporting the development of transport governance

c. Developing integrated urban projects

d. Developing the strengths of each territory
   - Regional investment planning and city strategic planning
   - Definition of policy-responses adapted to each lagging area
3 / Analytical/policy questions

• Decentralization: what optimal scale of public service delivery? Inter-municipal initiatives/tools.

• Promoting cross-sectoral policies and strengthening the role of LGs