Results from the peer reviews in the framework of the MED capitalization and clustering process

Policies For Sustainable Urban Models And Climate Change In The Mediterranean
Background

Since the first thematic brainstorming series in summer 2011 and the Capitalization Day in Marseilles in winter 2011, a bottom-up clustering process involving all MED projects has been carried out aiming to form clusters of projects within the same thematic areas. In this way, information shall be exchanged and common innovative outputs and results shall be mainstreamed and transferred to Mediterranean territories.

So far, this process led to the identification of 4 topics and 8 clusters of projects:

**Policies for Smart Growth: innovative and creative SME’s**
1) Web-based platforms for knowledge and technology transfers
2) Innovative services and “soft” infrastructures for innovative and creative SMEs/industries
3) Smart Specialisation in Rural Areas

**Policies for Sustainable Urban Models and Climate Change**
4) Sustainable urban models, urban design and economic development
5) Energy Efficiency, Waste management and Pollution Prevention (buildings and neighborhoods)

**Policies for Sustainable Management of Natural Risk and Resources**
6) Governance and Adaptation Policies in Costal Mediterranean Zone
7) Integrated and Sustainable management of natural areas and resource in Mediterranean Area

**Policies for Sustainable Ports and Transports**
8) Sustainable Ports, Transports and Accessibility
The cluster of MED programme projects on ‘Policies For Sustainable Urban Models And Climate Change In The Mediterranean’ fits into the wider Europe 2020 strategy to deliver smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and particularly into the ‘Roadmap for moving to a competitive low-carbon economy in 2050’. It includes topics on sustainable mobility, proximity markets, local production and social cohesion, eco industrial areas, management of port and coastal areas. The contribution of the MED projects especially builds on strengthening knowledge and capacities of the main stakeholders, mainly public authorities, through the creation of tools and methods for the improvement of public planning and policy making in urban Mediterranean zones.

Who is (in) the cluster?

Participating MED projects:

+ APICE + CATMED + COASTANCE + CYCLO + ECOMARK
+ ELIH-MED + ENERMED + IRH-MED + MAREMED + MARIE
+ MEID + PORTA + TEENERGY + ZEROWASTE

Participating projects financed by other EU programmes:

Interreg IV B: + FATE IPA CBC – Adriatic: + OSSDT

What are the cluster’s main pillars?

The cluster is supported by 3 pillars:

- A political commitment, “The Malaga Charter”, signed by (11 Mayors);
- A set of guidelines on a sustainable urban model for mitigation and adaptation to the climate change taking into account all contributing environmental and spatial factors in an integrated manner;
- A platform (www.catmed.eu) of sustainable Mediterranean cities collecting all the physical and methodological outputs produced by the projects. This platform will contain all the quantitative and qualitative environmental and territorial indicators developed by the projects in their specific subject areas. It will be a very useful tool that will help municipalities in the implementation of policies and their monitoring.

The integrated approach organizes the outputs produced by the projects in 4 main themes:

- territorial management and urban design
- mobility and transport
- social and economic cohesion through sustainable economies
- natural resource management in port/coastal areas
What are the outputs?

Territorial management and urban design

The CAT MED project proposed a common transnational system of urban sustainability indicators (see http://catmed.eu/systeme-transnational-indicateurs/indicateurs-transnationaux.html) enabling to track the evolution of urban systems. A guide ‘Planning and Design’ addressed to the members of pilot metropolitan groups (involving citizens and local stakeholders), sets the baseline for the implementation of the so-called ‘Green Apple’ pilot projects, which intend to develop (through planning and construction engineering) fully sustainable buildings.

The guidelines for ‘Energy Efficient School Buildings’ produced by TEENERGY aim at providing local administrators with a useful decision support instrument to implement a ‘Best Path’ to modernize existing school buildings, targeting low energy consumption and sustainability awareness.

The ELIHMED strategic project produces guidelines on
+ cost-effective modernization solutions in Mediterranean low income housing;
+ on innovative financings and subsidy schemes;
+ on energy efficiency policies of local and regional authorities.

The Associated Partners Platform of the MARIE project will facilitate interaction between public and private bodies related to energy efficient renovation in the Mediterranean countries.

Other two important tools are the ‘Integrated Transitional Benchmark Analysis’ and the ‘Guidelines for Innovative Sustainable Housing’ produced by IRH-MED project. These instruments intend to achieve sustainable housing through a housing sustainable assessment (qualitative and quantitative) and common compatible criteria, indicators, calculation methodologies and implementation procedures.

The ‘Guideline for Green Industrial Buildings’ produced by MEID offers important recommendations to the different agents implied in the design, construction and maintenance process of construction projects. Besides, a practical methodology enables to measure or quantify the degree of sustainability related to industrial buildings.

As it is stated in the ZEROWASTE project guide ‘Good practices data base on line’, it is also very important to reduce the amount of waste ending up in landfills in an urban sustainable perspective. This can be done by re-using waste including it in recycling schemes and processes that moreover act as drivers for economic activities.

At urban level, another very important goal is the reduction of urban sprawl and land consumption as well as the development of territorial zoning policies. With the ‘Guideline with quantitative tools for measuring the consumption of soil’ that will be produced by the OSDDT project, local authorities will be able to use quantitative methods and practices for monitoring and measurement of soil consumption at urban level. The guideline will be available on the project website (www.osddt.eu) at the end of the project (June 2013).
In the Mediterranean cities, port areas are very positive elements for their economic development, however they also create serious environmental and urban issues. In this framework, reducing port emissions does not only address global climate warming but also promotes innovation and energy efficiency and enables to improve life quality in surrounding areas.

- The GHG Emission management tool implemented within the CLIMEPORT project framework enables to monitor the amount of energy used in port areas and to calculate the carbon footprint generated in order to propose and implement mitigation measures.

- In order to improve urban sustainable mobility, the PORTA project will develop guidelines on integrated models for port management as well as for urban and environmental policies. The guidelines have a common set of indicators (in the fields of transports, environment and land use) to guarantee a shared and integrated methodology for data collection and elaboration. Concerning the mainstreaming, PORTA will develop a proposal for a European directive/regulation in order to enhance incentive policies in inter-modal shipping.

- The APICE project contribution is also particularly relevant. Local Adaptation Plans, based on the visioning and construction of alternative models of port areas in harmony with the urban context, were elaborated in the framework of this project.

- Finally, the CYCLO project designed Master Plans establishing medium-long term strategies to promote bicycle mobility in public areas, infrastructure implementations (bicycle lanes, racks, station, storage facilities, etc.) and services (rental, etc.). The Master Plans are directed to increase the use of bicycle especially in the historic centers of small Mediterranean towns.
Social and economic cohesion through sustainable economies

- The outputs produced by MED projects generally aim at providing operational tools, methodologies and practices for company eco-efficiency as well as at promoting industrial process oriented to low-carbon economy. In this sense, the guideline ‘A Mediterranean Eco Industrial Development model’ produced by the MEID project proposes qualified services for ecologically equipped areas.

- The Green Marketing Plans (GMP) elaborated by the ECOMARK project are regional marketing plans aiming at promoting a green business approach through public-private partnerships. Another typical case of Public Private Partnerships is the FATE project and its main output: the FATE Book, a very innovative tool for military site reconversion. The end users (firstly the entrepreneurs) involved from a very early stage, had the opportunity to develop different ideas for reconverting.

Natural resources management

- In response to the need for a proper coastal zone management, especially in urban areas, the COASTANCE project proposes innovative techniques and approaches for the formulation of mid-long term coastal protection master plans as well as for the implementation of sustainable management plans, capitalizing good practices developed by several European projects. The documents focus on practices and understandings developed on the occasion of scientific studies and previous experiences. The concrete results – Realistic Submersion Risk Forecast Systems, Specific EIA/SEA (Environmental Impact Assessment/Strategic Environmental Assessment) Procedures and coastal protection Master Plans – are proposed as governance and public policy.

In terms of mainstreaming, the guideline on ‘Environmental Impacts focused on coastal protection’ can be incorporated in the legal framework of each region (as Emilia Romagna and Lazio regions did).

- Another innovative approach is the attempt to design ‘quantitative’ risks scenarios as well as to carry out an economic evaluation on climate change effects. The ‘Risk Map for Coastal Flood and Erosion’ produced by the MAREMED project intends to promote better evaluation of climate changes in coastal areas at both Mediterranean and local level, particularly regarding extreme climate events. The project develops specific innovative outputs like a guideline for the accomplishment of the Art.8 of the Protocol ICZM concerning the definition of the zone ‘where construction is not allowed’, a very ‘hot spot’ in urban areas. MAREMED will also provide practical tools for short, medium and long term plans compliant with Directive 60/2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks, and ICZM Protocol.
What about the future?

In the near future, the projects participating to this cluster will explore the possibility for further output capitalization, thus it will seek:

⚠️ To transform the Platform of Sustainable Mediterranean Metropolis of the CAT MED project in a virtual place where all the stakeholders can find and exchange the best practices for urban sustainability. This platform could also host different sector forums to explore linkages, common issues, experiences and applications. Other hypothesis to explore are: the establishment of an EGTC of Mediterranean sustainable cities; the promotion and evaluation of possible links with the future Horizon 2020 ‘Better Society’, in particular for ‘Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials’ and for ‘Smart, green and integrated transport’ challenges. It is also necessary for these initiatives to open a dialogue and fit in with the recent process developed by the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean and aiming at building the Euro-Mediterranean Sustainable Urban Strategy (www.ufmsecretariat.org);

⚠️ In addition, a web portal dedicated to the Sustainable Urban Model, as a “wiki space”, is being set up. On this portal, communities of local institutions (the signatories of Malaga Charter, for example) can find guidelines and best practices on different themes (mobility, coastal management, energy efficiency for building, etc.) and discuss their results and experiences in a dedicated forum.

⚠️ The Malaga Charter Community can become a privileged partner of the European Smart Cities communities just as the Covenant of Mayors (European movement involving local and regional authorities voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories), and CONCERTO (a European Commission initiative within the European Research Framework Programme FP6 and FP7, www.concertoplus.eu) which aims to demonstrate that optimizing the building sector of a whole community is more efficient and cheaper than optimizing each building individually.
The flyer resumes the results of the capitalization process sustained by the MED Programme and implemented by CeSPI (Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale) and Institut de la Méditerranée (IM) through case study analysis and peer reviews meetings. CeSPI/IM thank all the projects for their active participation.