



Innovative
sustainable economy

Interreg
Euro-MED



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الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

Advancing together for a smarter, greener and fairer Mediterranean

*Perspectives for cohesion and resilience
in our region(s)*

18 June 2026 | Bologna (IT)

DAMA Tecnopolo, Via Stalingrado, 84/3 - Botte B4



CONCEPT AND STRUCTURE OF THE DAY

Cohesion Policy stands today as the bedrock of Mediterranean future. In the 2021-2027 period, it is supporting nearly 200 billion euros of investments across the Euro-Mediterranean regions. Together with funds for rural development and the National Recovery and Resilience Plans, this policy is delivering tangible improvements to citizens' quality of life, strengthening economic prosperity, regional attractiveness and resilience, while supporting the transition towards a more sustainable development model.

Nevertheless, profound structural challenges persist. Climate change is reshaping territories and livelihoods, geopolitical instability is adding further pressure, and the rapid emergence of a data-driven, AI-powered economy is testing institutional resilience.

As National Recovery and Resilience Plans approach completion and the Cohesion Policy programmes have passed their mid-term review, attention is already turning to the next **Multiannual Financial Framework for the 2028-2034 period**.

In the European Commission's proposals, the new long-term budget is expected to equip Europe with an investment capacity that matches its ambitions to become an independent, prosperous, secure and thriving society and economy over the coming decade. Alongside new priorities, **investing in people, Member States and regions remains a central priority**, ensuring continued support for greater economic, social and territorial cohesion across the Union.

In this context, the event is intended as an opportunity to foster a high-level dialogue on the future perspectives for the Euro-Mediterranean region(s), taking into account recent EU initiatives and the proposals for the next programming period. It aims to bring together representatives from European institutions, national and regional authorities, to highlight the diverse perspectives from across the Mediterranean.

Combining conference sessions and panel discussions in the morning with an interactive workshop session in the afternoon, the event will gather positions, concerns and proposals from stakeholders to help shape a shared vision and advance together for a smarter, greener and more inclusive Mediterranean.

It is organised within the **Innovative Sustainable Economy Mission of the Interreg Euro-MED Programme** by the Emilia-Romagna Region (ERR) and the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR), back-to-back with the meeting of the General Assembly of its Intermediterranean Commission.



**MORE INFORMATION AND
REGISTRATION HERE**

Preserving cohesion, giving voice to the territories. Towards the 2028-2034 programming period

9.00 – 13.00 (simultaneous translation Italian-English)

9.00 - Registration of participants

9.30 - Institutional greetings and opening remarks

- **Michele de Pascale** - President of the Emilia-Romagna Region
 - **Davide Strangis** – Secretary General of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)
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9.50 - **Beyond 2027: The role of Regions in shaping new cohesion policies oriented toward territorial impact**

Davide Baruffi – Regional Minister for Strategic planning, Planning of EU funds, Budget, Mountain and inner areas at the Emilia-Romagna Region

10.05 - **Panel 1 - Rethinking regional cohesion: a new paradigm in a world of changes**

Chair: **Veronica Lenzi** – Emilia-Romagna Region

Kay Böhme - Founder and director of Spatial Foresight

Territorial cohesion between old problems and new challenges

Discussion panel:

- **Silvia Burzagli** - Executive Director of EU Liaison Office at the Tuscany Region
- **Aldrin Dalipi** - President of the Tirana Region and President of the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion
- **Gerard Vives Fernández** - Director General for EU Affairs at the Catalan Government

Interaction with audience (instant poll)

11.00 - *Coffee break*

11.30 - **Panel 2 - Cohesion 2028-2034. A reform to be developed together with the Regions and territories**

Chair: **Daniela Ferrara** – Emilia-Romagna Region

Moray Gilland - Head of Unit for Macro-regions, Transnational / Interregional / External Cooperation, Enlargement at the European Commission

The proposed MFF 2028-2034 and the perspective for the EU Cohesion Policy

Discussion panel:

- **Federica Busillo** – Director General for European cohesion policies at the Department for the cohesion policy and the South of the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers
- **Maria Lucia Mei** – Director General for Strategic planning, territorial development, innovation and organization at the Emilia-Romagna Region
- **Júlio Teixeira** - Policy officer for Cohesion and EU budget at CPMR

Interaction with audience (instant poll)

12.25 – Interreg Euro-MED as enabling platform for regional cooperation

- **Alessandro Daraio** – Coordinator of the Institutional Dialogue Project of the Innovative Sustainable Economy Mission
- **Guillaume Huet** - Interreg Euro-MED Managing Authority, Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

12.50 - Closing remarks

Davide Baruffi – Regional Minister for Strategic planning, Planning of EU funds, Budget, Mountain and inner areas at the Emilia-Romagna Region

13.00 - 14.30 - Light lunch

Toward a shared vision for a smarter, greener and more inclusive Mediterranean in the 2028-2034 programming period

14.30-18.00 (English only)

14.30 - Co-creation workshop led by the Interreg Euro-MED Innovative Sustainable Economy Mission

The workshop is aimed at stimulating structured discussion on the perspective of cohesion and sustainable prosperity across the Mediterranean area.

Through several working groups, stakeholder' views on the **strategic implications of the EU post-2027 programming period for the Mediterranean regions** will be discussed to collect and highlight proposals for better use of policy tools to foster economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Mediterranean, including exploiting synergies among different funding streams.

Participants will engage in group working sessions following a world café approach to favour everyone active engagement.

Proposed tables:

Priorities and challenges for cohesion in the Mediterranean regions

Partnership and multilevel governance and the centrality of territories

Transformative innovation for sustainable development

The added value of territorial cooperation

18.30 – 20.00 Networking cocktail

Hosted by:



<https://innovative-sustainable-economy.interreg-euro-med.eu/>



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