

Summary of the Mediterranean Workshop 2017

Naples, 23rd-24th October 2017

<http://www.jeangilder.it/mw17/>

1. Conceptual vision

Globalization is producing deep and often dramatic changes all over the world. The Euro-Mediterranean area is now affected by economic crisis and social distress, with disparities that generate tensions inside and among countries. However, as in other transition periods in the history of mankind, hard challenges come together with new opportunities that can be grasped using innovative approaches.

The Mediterranean area is geographically small but culturally large, thanks to the variety of cultures inherited from a long history of civilizations and to the historical links with neighboring countries. It is strategically located to have its own role in a new world scenario. It must aim at becoming a hub of civilization in a spirit of a sustainable and shared development, rather than be confined to a role of market and bare maritime corridor.

To reverse the present trend and achieve the above aim, it is thus time for Euro-Mediterranean countries to develop new strategies consistently with the global nature of the challenges so as to lead to a new role at the world level. Such strategies should boost opportunities for job creation and increase competitiveness, by focusing resources and competences on processes that are able to mitigate disparities simultaneously. Consolidating existing cooperation mechanisms and generating new structures to extend the level of coordination can be driving forces to promote sustainable and socially inclusive development of Mediterranean regions in the frame of the European Cohesion Policy. Dialogue, shared competences and agreed objectives should characterize this approach. As it happened in the course of history, different cultures may be lead to conflicts but can be exploited as a global strength.

The Mediterranean Workshop 2017 was designed and organized to face the above challenges by rising synergies through a holistic approach and by enhancing the coordination among existing networks, under the auspices of public institutions. The holistic approach was applied in what concerns both cultures and disciplines, profiting from the international and multicultural nature of research and education. Existing networks were genetically involved in the organization of the workshop, in the spirit of working together at a higher level of coordination. The workshop was based on an innovative concept, in the view of continuing along this direction in the future if successful.

And seas but join the regions they divide

Alexander Pope in his juvenile poem "Windsor forest" (1713)

2. Organisation

The workshop was organised by the University of Naples Federico II, University of Naples L'Orientale, University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, University of Salerno, University of Sannio, University Telematica eCampus, SVIMEZ (*Association Sviluppo del Mezzogiorno*), CNR (*National Research Council*), INFN (*National Institute for Nuclear Physics*) – Section of Naples, Fondazione IDIS - Città della Scienza, Science and School Association.

Co-organised by Regione Campania, Regione Campania SI2 (*Start-up, Internationalisation, Innovation*) and Sviluppo Campania, co-funded by the European Union in the frame of the "Plan of Action for Research, Development, Innovation and ICT" POR CAMPANIA FESR 2014-2020 OT1 - Research and Innovation of the Italian Republic.

In collaboration with CMU (*Community of Mediterranean Universities*), EAMC (*Engineering Associations of Mediterranean Countries*), RMEI (*Réseau Méditerranéen des Ecoles d'Ingénieurs et de Management*), UNIMED (*Mediterranean Universities Union*), AssIDMer (*Association Internationale du Droit de la Mer*), JMCE (*Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence*), SRM (*Centro Studi e Ricerche per il Mezzogiorno*), HOMERe (*High Opportunities for Mediterranean Executives Recruitment*), GAMe (*Young Mediterranean Ambassadors*), ISIS Elena di Savoia.

The workshop was held under the auspices of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Campania Region, Municipality of Naples, CRUI (*Conference of Rectors of Italian Universities*)

3. Outline

The workshop has been held in Naples, on 23 and 24 October 2017 at the Congress Centre of the University of Naples Federico II in the monumental complex of Saints Marcellino and Festo inside the historical city centre of Naples. The workshop was linked to the colloquium organized by RMEI (*Réseau Méditerranéen des Ecoles d'Ingénieurs et de Management*) and École Centrale Marseille that took place in Marseille on 4 and 5 May 2017.

The workshop program can be seen on the workshop's website and it was basically divided into four blocks:

A. Opening and greetings from the institutions; invited speeches on Mediterranean cultural identity, integration and cooperation in the Mediterranean basin, development of the Mediterranean economy, the Campania Region's innovation ecosystem.

B. Poster session in which presentation of initiatives and projects developed by start-ups, innovative companies, research centres, High Technology Districts (DAT), Public-Private Aggregations (APP), residents and/or operating in the Campania Region and in line with the themes of the Regional Intelligent Specialization Strategy (RIS3) and the development objectives of the Mediterranean area.

C. Presentation of experiences and projects carried out within four thematic Work Tracks:

- Mobility in training, industrial innovation and business creation;
- Sustainable development;
- Cultural heritage;
- Logistics and marine strategy.

D. Invited speeches on port from the historical, economic and urban point of view.

The initiatives and projects presented in the Poster Session (Block B) were selected through a public notice and 15 initiatives were presented in total. The projects presented in block C were selected through an international call for projects issued from July until September 2017. A summary of Blocks B and C can be downloaded from the workshop's website.

During the workshop several opportunities were created to encourage exchange and interaction between participants - coffee breaks, light lunches and refreshments, as well a social event organised on the evening of October 24 at the Brau Library of the University of Naples Federico II in which several artists performed with music and songs of the Neapolitan and Maghreb tradition as a Mediterranean cultural heritage. The performance of the Italian-tunisian artists M'Barka Ben Taleb with her musical group was of special interest.

The workshop has had an international importance, with the participation of delegates of international associations, university professors, representatives of the world of professions and industry, financial institutions, students from different Mediterranean countries (Cyprus,

Croatia, Egypt, Greece, France, Italy, Lebanon, Spain, Portugal, Tunisia, Turkey) and countries in other areas of the world (Japan). About 120 people and 57 invited and selected speakers participated in the event. In addition, 4 press representatives took part in the workshop. The official language of the workshop was English, but some reports presentations and speeches were held in French.

4. The Mediterranean youth

The future of Mediterranean youth was the ultimate motivation of the workshop. The voice of the Mediterranean students was heard in the special session dedicated to the memorial of Franco Rizzi, founder of the UNIMED network of Mediterranean Universities. A group of young people from GAME (*Giovani Ambasciatori del Mediterraneo – Young Mediterranean Ambassadors*) gave a stimulating contribution to the Workshop in the form of a cultural performance, showing their views and their expectations.

Neapolitan students contributed to the organisation of the Workshop. The hotel management school *Elena di Savoia* participated in the workshop by taking care of providing excellent food and drinks to the participants throughout the workshop and by contributing to the reception of the guests.

5. Achievements

Altogether, the structure of the workshop fulfilled the aim to create a multidisciplinary and multicultural intellectual laboratory for stimulating the generation of new ideas and projects for an integrated and sustainable Mediterranean development.

Research, training and technology transfer projects were presented in a number of critical areas for the cohesion of the southern regions, in particular training and mobility, the transfer of knowledge and technology, the management and usability of cultural assets, strategies for sustainable development, logistics and marine strategy and the creation of innovative start-ups.

The participants had the opportunity to discuss and promote activities in the fields of higher education, research and the transfer of knowledge and technology, in favour of the new generations of the Mediterranean, also thanks to the support of the various international associations that sponsored the event. Furthermore, the workshop has laid the foundations for activating a useful collaborative dialogue between the various institutions and associations that have participated in the event.

6. Conclusion

The workshop turned out to be effective for gathering around specific projects and raising opportunities of collaborations in a multidisciplinary and multicultural spirit. The poster session stimulated contacts among start-up companies and participants.

An important asset of the workshop was the participation of existing Mediterranean networks. It was felt that a future Mediterranean Workshop would be welcome also in view of strengthening the coordination of their efforts and providing a consistent basis for the interactions with the governmental institutions.