Regional Cooperation contributes to:

**Reinforce** regional integration

**Promote** the sharing of experiences and the transfer of expertise

**Set** and promote best practice

**Define** common thematic strategies and action plans

**Carry out** together concrete projects

**Create** networks of people and organisations

**Reinforce** capacities of national and local authorities

**Advance** the strengthening of civil society
Since the launch of the Barcelona Process in 1995, the EU’s aim was to build bridges with its partners from the Southern Mediterranean and Middle East. The objective was to become a channel of change in the region, bringing peace, security and prosperity.

These political objectives had to be translated into policies on the ground to pursue the path to political and socio-economic reform and directly or indirectly benefit the people. This is where Regional Cooperation comes in. Most of the EU’s support is channelled bilaterally through the European Commission’s Delegations in the neighbour countries. But Regional Cooperation is unique in a sense that it brings together the EU and its Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) around the same table to discuss common policies and carry out concrete actions together.

Throughout the years, Regional Cooperation has been funding projects under the three priority areas set out in Barcelona.

- **A Political and Security Dialogue**, to foster peace, conflict resolution, stability but also cooperate on migration and Justice issues;
- **An Economic and Financial Partnership**, with a focus on favouring the economic conditions of growth, reforming key sectors and establishing a Free Trade Area by 2010;
- **A Social, Cultural and Human Partnership**, to promote culture and intercultural dialogue, gender equality, increase education opportunities, and strengthen civil society.

In 2004, the European Commission launched the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) for all its neighbours to the east and the south. Whereas, the Barcelona Process develops the regional or multilateral dimension of the Euro-Med Partnership, the ENP works to reinforce the Barcelona Process on a bilateral basis, through action plans taking into account each country’s specific needs and characteristics.

Since July 2008, the initiative Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean aims to infuse new vitality into the partnership, offering more balanced governance and increased visibility. Some strategic projects will be developed such as the Motorways of the Sea, a Solar Plan or the De-pollution of the Mediterranean. With 10% of the budget available for the Mediterranean region, Regional Cooperation seeks to impact the lives of the citizens either directly, through projects promoting safer travel, cleaner water and more education opportunities for example. Or indirectly through administrative or judicial reforms, investment promotion and gender equality.

It also works in two priority areas of the Euro-Med Partnership: the promotion of peace in the Middle East and a dialogue between cultures. What can be considered as an important achievement is the fact that it manages to bring people together to work on concrete projects despite political or other differences.

Regional cooperation is of strategic importance as it deals with problems that are common to many southern neighbour countries, while at the same time promoting cooperation and integration amongst them.

Regional Cooperation does not only benefit the Partner Countries but also the EU itself. It is a means through which the EU gets to know its neighbours better and backs their effort to achieve change. This cooperation contributes to develop commercial and human links and brings stability to the neighbourhood.

---

**Milestones**

1995 Launch of the Barcelona Process
1998-2006 Associations Agreements
2002 The European Investment Bank sets up the FEMIP
2004 European Neighbourhood Policy launched
2005 Celebrating 10 years of Barcelona Process & Adoption of Five-Year Work Programme
2007 ENPI Regional Strategy Paper 2008-2013
2008 Launch of the “Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean”

---

“We have come a long way since the launching of the Barcelona process. We have developed a true partnership in a wide array of areas including political dialogue, civil society, education and media through the creation of numerous well functioning Euro-Mediterranean networks. Despite certain obstacles and setbacks, our desire and drive have not been diluted. With the initiative ‘Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean’, we want to consolidate the progress made and build on them and take our partnership to new levels of viability, vitality and visibility for all our citizens.”

Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations and ENP
Why Regional Cooperation
- Encourage south-north and south-south cooperation
- Solve cross-border issues
- Finance activities with no frontiers
- Support change and modernization
- Prepare the ground for a Free Trade Area (2010)
- Work on regulatory approximation
- Prepare the ground for a Free Trade Area (2010)
- Foster sustainable economic development
- Solve cross-border issues
- Why Regional Cooperation

Who benefits
Regional Cooperation invests in people who come together to share knowledge and experiences, learn through training, create networks and build on best practices. Government officials and bodies, NGOs, municipalities, professionals and hundreds of others who participate in the projects funded benefit directly. But, there is a broader long-term impact on the public at large as citizens are the ultimate beneficiaries of any political, economic and social change brought about through this Partnership.

How to get involved
To participate in funded projects, one has to look out for and apply to the calls for tenders, announced on the EuropeAid website http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl.

About a month before a new call is announced, there is a Forecast so that participants have time to prepare. The European Commission and its Delegations often organise Information Days.

Investing in People
Much of the work done by the projects revolves around training, seminars and workshops that build on people’s knowledge and capabilities – this ranges from the training of civil servants (Public Administration project) or journalists (Journalist Network) and support to film editors (Audiovisual Programme), to supporting magistrates, legal professionals and high level officials in order to achieve a modern justice system (EuroMed Justice) and building up the knowledge of experts in architectural restoration (Euromed Heritage).

Some projects, like Euromed Aviation and Motorways of the Sea, may mainly involve officials at government level, but the citizens are the ones who will benefit from their outcomes as they promote safety and economic growth. The same goes with Invest in Med, which promotes investment and supports SMEs.

Some build expertise on information gathering, like the MEDSTAT project that collects reliable statistics, while others carry out studies, for example on socio-economic issues (FEMISE). In certain cases, such as the Role of Women in Economic Life programme, practical support and funding is given to organisations.

In Practice
- Saving energy in construction
- An efficient solid waste treatment
- A better management of water resources
- Judicial reform
- Cooperation on Police or Migration issues
- Investment growth
- Quality for competitive products
- Micro-credit for women
- Maritime and aviation safety and security
- Common statistical indicators
- City to city partnerships
- Preservation of the cultural heritage

Partnership and Dialogue
Regional Cooperation offers a unique opportunity for people from the partner countries to sit around the same table and engage in a dialogue even in difficult times or on sensitive issues, like safeguarding human rights. Through this exchange people learn to work together, experiences are shared, relationships built, networks created and common activities carried out. Civil society organisations and stakeholders are often given a say.

The Financial Instrument
The regional programmes and projects were funded through the MEDA instrument from 1995 to 2007. Since then, support has been provided under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) which amounts to approximately €12 billion for the period 2007-2013. €343 million is foreseen for the period 2007-2010 for regional cooperation in the Mediterranean.
Regional Programmes Funded

**Political and Security Dialogue**

- Justice, Freedom & Security
  - EuroMed Justice II
    - € 2 million (2008-2011)
    - [Website](http://www.euromedjustice.eu)
  - EuroMed Police II
    - € 4 million (2008-2010)
    - [Website](http://www.cedpol.europa.eu/index.php?id=97)
  - EuroMed Policy
    - € 5 million (2008-2010)
    - [Website](http://www.cedpol.europa.eu/index.php?id=97)

**Economy**

- Political Dialogue
  - EuroMedII – Energy efficiency in construction
    - € 4 million (2004-2008)
    - [Website](http://www.eumednet.org)
  - EuroMed Market
    - € 1.2 million (2004-2008)
    - [Website](http://www.euromedmarket.org)
  - EuroMed Participation
    - € 5 million (2004-2009)
    - [Website](http://www.femme.org)

**Social, Cultural and Human Partnership**

- Information Society
  - EUMEDIASHIP
    - € 4 million (2007-2011)
    - [Website](http://www.eumed.net)
  - TATIP III – Telecommunications policy
    - € 4 million (2008-2010)
    - [Website](http://www.tatip2.org)

**Transport**

- EuroMed Transport
  - € 6 million (2006-2008)
  - [Website](http://www.euromedtransport.org)
  - EuroMed Aviation
    - € 6.2 million (2007-2010)
    - [Website](http://www.euromedaviation.org)

**Environment**

- EMWIS – Water sector cooperation
  - € 2 million MEDA, € 3 million Spain, Italy & France (2004-2008)
  - [Website](http://www.emwis.net)
  - MEDA Water – Resource management
    - € 4 million (2005-2008)
    - [Website](http://www.medwater-msu.org)
  - Mediterranean Environment programme
    - € 4 million (2006-2011)
    - [Website](http://www.medmed.org)

**Energy**

- Agadir agreement – EU support project
  - € 4 million (2004-2007)
  - [Website](http://www.epadagadir.org)
  - Investment in Med
    - € 9 million (2008-2011)
    - [Website](http://www.invmedia.org)

**Civil Society**

- European Civil Forum
  - Determined by each EU Presidency since 1995
  - [Website](http://www.euromed-platform.org)
  - Euro-Mediterranean Summit
    - € 4.5 million (2002-2008)
    - [Website](http://www.euromedsume.eu/en)
  - MED-PACT – Local authorities
    - € 1.9 million (2004-2008)
    - [Website](http://www.medpact.org/)

**Audiovisual & Media**

- Eurovision – Audio-Mediterranean cooperation
  - € 1.5 million (2005-2008)
  - [Website](http://www.eurovisionaudio.coop)

**Gender Issues & Youth**

- Role of Women in Economic Life
  - € 1.5 million (2006-2008)
  - [Website](http://www.roleofwomenineconomiclife.net)

**Culture**

- EuroMed Heritage III
  - € 40 million (2007-2010)
  - [Website](http://www.euromedheritage.eu)
  - Anna Lindh Foundation – Dialogue between cultures
    - € 5 million (2005-2008)
    - [Website](http://www.euromeddialogue.org)

**Education & Training**

- Training of public administrations
  - € 6 million (2005-2008)
  - [Website](http://www.ipa.eu/en/topics/)
  - [Website](http://www.medadmin.org/)

**Globalisation**

- Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Economic and Social Councils
  - € 50 million per annum since 1995
  - [Website](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/)

**Transport**

- Motorways of the Sea – Transport connections
  - € 9 million (2006-2010)
  - [Website](http://www.euromedtransport.org)

**Editorial**

- [New PROJECT](http://www.newproject.com)
- [WEBSITE](http://www.website.com)
- [BUDGET](http://www.budget.com)