

LETTER OF INTENT OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONS THAT MAKE UP THE MEDITERRANEAN SPACE.

We, the European Regions that make up the Mediterranean space, are aware of the fact that the space we share, given its history, culture and vitality, has certain particular characteristics that have given the Mediterranean its own identity and considerable territorial and human capital.

We know that this singularity is reflected in its territorial structure, its landscape and the way of life of its people.

Moreover, we know that it is a dynamic space, distinguished by a considerable amount of natural wealth, cultural heritage and economic activity, which makes it a very attractive place to settle in.

However, we cannot ignore the fact that in reality it is a fragmented and unbalanced space, where the pressure of urban planning, the deficient transportation and communication networks, the high population concentrated on the coast and the pressure of immigration continues to be a problem throughout the Mediterranean Basin.

We are concerned that this situation, to a certain extent, helps maintain the existing imbalance between central Europe and the Mediterranean peripheral regions.

Therefore, the Mediterranean Regions believe that territorial strategies, which are based on identifying and promoting factors associated with territorial competitiveness, have to be developed in line with the social and economic cohesion criteria, established through the Lisbon (2000) and Gothenburg (2001) Agenda and more recently, with the concept of territorial cohesion arising from the Lisbon Treaty (2009), and the competitiveness challenges of the European strategy 2020.

The design and the development of these strategies would not be possible without having extensive information and knowledge of the different relevant territorial variables, including the dynamics and the interrelations of such.

In view of this, we think it is absolutely essential to join forces to launch an Online Territorial Observatory of the Mediterranean Regions which, according to the principle of Subsidiarity and pursuant to the resolutions of the INSPIRE Directive, provides the public with comparative territorial information and the studies needed to be able to design territorial competitiveness strategies for the European Mediterranean.

Consequently, as the signatory Mediterranean Regions we hereby declare that we are truly committed to this initiative, using the SDIMED GeoNetwork opensource (Spatial Data Infrastructure of the MED Space) as a basic instrument that is developed through the OTREMED European cooperation project for this purpose.