

**OTREMED / Tools of territorial strategy of the Med space**

# **FINAL REPORT / TERRITORIAL FACTORS**

**July 2012 / Piemonte region**



# 4.1



Project cofinanced by ERDF





OTREMED – Tools of territorial strategy  
off the MED space

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the current globalised economy, the regions forming the MED space tend to construct their competitive advantage on the basis of some place-specific sets of local assets. Consistent with the geographical variety (socio-economic, cultural and physical) of the MED regions, these assets include a highly varied group of territorial factors and development conditions.

Nevertheless, as far as the greatest development challenges affecting the MED space are considered, the competitiveness of the Mediterranean regions can be reported to a quite reduced set of “keywords” or competitive territorial factors.

The aim of this report, realised by Regione Piemonte and IRES Piemonte in the context of the OTREMED project (Phase 4.1 “Territorial factors”), is to provide a territorialised list of such competitive factors reflecting both the specificity of the Mediterranean development model (based on key issues and additional development issues, as they have been described by Region Lazio and BIC Lazio in the context of the Phase 3.3 “Regional characterization of Mediterranean space” of the project) and the uniqueness of the priorities, problems and goals of every territory forming the MED space.

More specifically, the competitive factors reflect the MED regions’ representation of the main development issues and factors in the MED space. In fact, they have been identified on the basis of a two-step process including:

- i) a survey among the partners of the OTREMED project. Via the distribution of a questionnaire, representatives of the OTREMED Regions (13 regions) have been asked to indicate, for every NUTS 3 region in their territory, the share of the land area corresponding to some emerging *territorial typologies* (MEGA urban poles, Coastal urban areas, Inland urban areas, Rural areas with intensive agriculture, Intermediary rural areas, Rural and natural areas, Small islands and archipelagos). Then, according to their regional experience, they have been asked: to select, among the *development challenges* affecting the Mediterranean – as they have been described in the report of the Lazio partners summarising the preliminary results of the phase 3.3 of the project –, the challenges they considered the most urgent; to indicate the territorial typologies where these priorities were most evident; to detect a reduced list of *territorial factors* and related *policies* enabling the regional system to cope with the previously selected development challenges and territories;
- ii) a validation process with representatives of MED Regions that are not partners of the OTREMED project. The preliminary results of the survey among OTREMED partners have been sent to representatives of all the other MED Regions, asking for their feed-backs, comments, advices, etc. Hitherto (May 2012) 19 regions participated to the validation process.

As a result, the survey and the validation procedure led to the identification of a MED-specific competitive model, whose essence is characterised as follows:

- the MED space (13 Otremed regions + 19 non-Otremed regions) presents a highly diversified territorial structure that overlaps poorly with the regional administrative partition. Most of the MED land area is constituted by rural and natural areas (33.9%). A relevant share of these consists in intermediary rural areas (27.5%). Rural areas with intensive agriculture occupy the 15.4% while urban areas occupy the 21.4% of the total land area: this percentage is composed by 11.0% of inland areas, 9.0% of coastal areas, and 1.4% of MEGA poles. Finally, small islands and archipelagos account for 1.8%. The residual 0.2% consists of a highly mixed system of territorial typologies;
- nevertheless, any attempt to report the MED space to a well-defined sample of geographical regions, characterised by homogeneous territorial features (mountain, hill and plain areas; internal or coastal) and prevailing functions (urban or rural; central or peripheral) clashes with the dense presence of human activities that characterises the largest portion of the MED space, leading to a high degree of functional overlapping. Indeed, in the MED regions residential, agricultural, industrial, and service activities often coexist in the same places;
- a reason of the great territorial variety of the MED space relies on the history and geography of its regions. In the MED space, a vast heritage of tangible and intangible assets, which have been defined by an historic layering of values and cultures, and an accumulation of traditions and social, cultural and economic experiences, is recognized as such in its diversity and it is used to feed networks of relationships at the various geographical scales (from the local to the global). In this sense, the MED space uses traditionally embedded assets (such as cultural heritage, landscape, traditional industries and know-how) to construct its competitive advantage in a multi-scalar and trans-scalar way;
- yet, the development model expressed by the MED space is also contradictory in a certain sense. More specifically, the factors that have been mentioned as MED strengths by some Regions have been mentioned as weaknesses by other ones. For instance, this is the case of transport infrastructures and services, and firm-university relationships;
- moreover, in comparison with other European macro-regions, the MED space is highly dependent on external fluxes of energy, resources, goods and competences, and those fluxes are often characterised by seasonal trends. Particularly, this is the case of summer and winter tourism, that provoke congestion and over-crowding effects above all in coastal urban areas;
- indeed, coastal areas emerge as key strategic territories pushing the competitiveness of the MED space. On the one hand, almost all the surveyed regions (both OTREMED and non-OTREMED), have in fact showed to be aware of the strategic role of coastal areas with respect to several development challenges (revitalisation of the urban system, access to transport, research and development), functions (economic,

In the table that follows the *competitive territorial factors* in the MED space (third column in the table) are represented by a reduced set of **synthetic key words** and organised according to both the key development themes/challenges (first column) they concur to cope with, and a list of related sub-themes/challenges or territorial dynamics (second column), which have been detected as the most relevant in the MED space according to the conclusive results of the phase 3.3 of the OTREMED project. The fourth column in the table shows the territories to which the competitive factors are referred mostly.

*Table – Competitive territorial factors and related territories in the MED space*

Key development themes / challenges	Sub-themes / challenges or territorial dynamics in the MED space	Competitive territorial factors in the MED space	Territories to which the factor is mostly referred
1. Revitalisation of the urban system	Population growth, aging population, and critical mass in active population Immigration/Integration Urbanization, soil consumption degree, and settlement models Accessibility at different levels Basic services and supply for the population	<b>urbanisation and soil consumption trends</b>	coastal urban areas inland urban areas
		<b>demographic trends</b>	rural and natural areas inland urban areas
		<b>planning tools/practices</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas coastal urban areas
		<b>integrated transport systems</b>	inland urban areas coastal urban areas MEGA urban poles
		<b>services supply</b>	rural and natural areas
2. Research and development	University, Higher Education Centres, Public and Private Research Institutions Cooperation	<b>integrated research systems</b>	coastal urban areas inland urban areas
		<b>public-private partnerships</b>	MEGA urban poles coastal urban areas inland urban areas
		<b>public and private investments</b>	MEGA urban poles
		<b>human capital</b>	MEGA urban poles inland urban areas
3. Crisis of rural	Economy of small and medium centres	<b>planning</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas
		<b>natural capital</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas
		<b>innovative agriculture</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas rural areas with intensive agriculture

Key development themes / challenges	Sub-themes / challenges or territorial dynamics in the MED space	Competitive territorial factors in the MED space	Territories to which the factor is mostly referred
4. Access to transport	Freight supply	<b>integrated transport systems</b>	MEGA urban poles coastal urban areas inland urban areas
		<b>multimodality</b>	MEGA urban poles coastal urban areas inland urban areas
5. Access to information and communication technologies	Degree of internationalization and transfer of technology E-government diffusion	<b>high-speed connections</b>	MEGA urban poles coastal urban areas inland urban areas
		<b>technological innovation</b>	coastal urban areas inland urban areas
8. Management of cultural resources	Policies for land protection	<b>planning tools/practices</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas coastal urban areas
	"Culture" resource and economy	<b>cultural capital</b>	MEGA urban poles inland urban areas
9. Sustainability of regional economic resources	Employment Dynamics Structure and dimension of enterprises and economic framework	<b>technical capital</b>	inland urban areas intermediary rural areas MEGA urban poles
		<b>technological innovation</b>	MEGA urban poles inland urban areas
		<b>green economy</b>	MEGA urban poles coastal urban areas rural and natural areas
		<b>renewable energy sources</b>	coastal urban areas inland urban areas
		<b>human capital</b>	MEGA urban poles inland urban areas
		<b>job market</b>	inland urban areas intermediary rural areas
		<b>public-private partnership</b>	MEGA urban poles coastal urban areas inland urban areas
10. Governance	Services/supply provision by public administration Efficiency of public administration	<b>public-public partnership</b>	rural and natural areas
		<b>social capital</b>	coastal urban areas inland urban areas
11. Landscape management	Planning and policies framework	<b>planning tools/practices</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas
		<b>natural capital</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas
		<b>landscape capital</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas rural areas with intensive agriculture
		<b>urbanisation and soil consumption trends</b>	coastal urban areas inland urban areas

Additional development themes/challenges	Sub-themes/challenges or territorial dynamics in the MED space	Competitive territorial factors in the MED space	Territories to which the factor is mostly referred
6. Sustainable energy	Energy demand and diversification	<b>green economy</b>	MEGA urban poles coastal urban areas rural and natural areas
		<b>renewable energy sources</b>	coastal urban areas inland urban areas
		<b>energy diversification</b>	intermediary rural areas
7. Disaster related risk prevention and management of natural resources	Natural hazards and environmental restoration measures	<b>planning tools/practices</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas coastal urban areas
		<b>monitoring</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas coastal urban areas

Summarising, the analysis conducted on the territorial competitive factors of the MED space has led to the comprehension that the MED regions still suffer from a traditional dependence on innovation-related models characterising the development of Western and Northern European regions rather than Southern and Eastern ones. In particular, consistent with Lisbon strategy, MED regions have attributed in their agendas great centrality to technological innovation assets such as the presence, above all in urban centres, of universities and higher education institutions, research and technology centres, science parks, R&D investments, cooperative partnerships, and advanced services.

Nevertheless, hints of the progressive drifting away of MED regions' agendas from the dominant EC development models have also appeared in terms of:

- the recognition of the importance of both planning and monitoring tools and governance processes in every type of territories. In particular, great centrality is attributed to the planning of efficient multimodal transport systems in urbanised territories;
- the emphasis posed on the preservation and valorisation of the local resources such as the human, technical and cultural capital, the locally rooted technical know-how, and the urban and natural landscape;
- the centrality attributed (mainly in urban contexts) to individuals' needs and issues such as the access to services and the job market, and their territorial embedding into the local economic, social and territorial processes;
- the increasing importance posed to the cultural and creative economies, hybridising traditional know-how and innovative technologies and languages, as well as to the green economy paradigm.

To say it differently, consistent with the next *place-based turn* in the EC cohesion policies, the MED space seems to move from the *cliché* of the promotion of the competitiveness *per se* to the pursuing of a territorially embedded definition of the competitiveness itself.

The MED space is working to be the place where diversities can cohabit and come to a cohesive and competitive synthesis in the name of the fruition, construction and valorisation of a common (although diversified) heritage of Mediterranean cultures, activities, and landscapes.

In other words, the essence of the MED model stays in the provision of the conditions enabling a territorially diversified set of models/processes of settlement and economic development. The MED model is a *multi-model*, whose success does not rely on a single receipt, but on the collaborative and creative hybridisation of different existing recipes.

This competitive model has been also approved by the majority of the Regions participating to the validation process. In particular, they have underwritten the final conclusions, whereas they expressed some doubts on the territorial characterisation resulting from the survey among the OTREMED Regions. As it was predictable, the most diverse the regional territorial conditions (in comparison with those of the majority of OTREMED regions) the greatest the proposed modifications.

Finally, the results of the analysis also allow for some reflections about the adopted methodology that can be helpful when the factors will be used to select indicators and variables:

- the choice for a territorialised reading of the development priorities of the OTREMED regions on the basis of a selection of territorial typologies is relevant, yet improvable. More specifically, both OTREMED and non-OTREMED regions reported difficulties in classifying rural areas;
- the methodology adopted to analyse the results of the survey, based on the building of different hierarchies of territorialised factors and policies calculating the frequencies in the replies to the questionnaires, has demonstrated a good capacity to synthesise the results of the survey and obtain a reduced sample of territorial factors. The validation process has then contributed to test the possibility to generalise the results of the OTREMED Regions to the whole MED space;
- nevertheless, this methodology cannot overcome the MED regions' poor awareness of the relevance of some territories and challenges. For instance, immigration and agriculture seem to be most considered challenges at the EC level than at the MED one;
- consistent with the highly varied territorial characterisation of the surveyed regions and the multi-scalar (or trans-scalar) nature of their issues and problems, the proper scale of analysis of the competitiveness of the MED space seems to be NUTS 3. Nevertheless, in some circumstances, we might suggest to adapt the scale of analysis to the analysed process. For instance, transport, employment and tourism processes can be more effectively analysed at a regional scale than at a provincial one. While, public services and intermediary infrastructures can be more easily measured at the urban scale;
- consistent with the geographically varied and functionally hybridising nature of the MED competitive model, *coremic* representations may be more useful in summarising and communicating the results of the analysis than traditional GIS representations. Most of



## INTRODUCTION

The identification of the territorial factors moulding the competitiveness of the different territories that form the Euro-Mediterranean (MED) space is one of the core steps of the EC MED project OTREMED. The main goal of this process is to share, first among partners of the project, then among the other regions of the MED space and other actors and stakeholders hopefully, a short list of crucial and strategic elements that can well represent the challenges this area is facing, the resources on which it can count and the gaps it has to fill.

The identification of the competitiveness territorial factors has to be the result of a selection process that takes into due account both the context conditions and the specific needs of the project:

- as far as the territorial context is concerned, the MED space is characterised by a huge variety of social, economic and cultural assets. Every nation, region or territory inside this macro-region, possesses its own peculiarities, as a result of a long and complex history as well as of dense internal and external interactions. In other words, although the MED space results characterised by some common elements (which distinguish it from other European macro-regions such the European core or the Atlantic arch), its territorial capital varies greatly according to the considered unit of analysis, being it a nation (NUTS 0 level), a region (NUTS 2 level), a province (NUTS 3 level) or also a municipality (LAU 2 level). This means that the resources the Mediterranean territories use in order to build their competitive advantage are often quite different. Thus, the territorial models from which the territorial factors derive should be at the same time *strategic*, i.e. capable of representing a strong selection on the competitive potentials of the area, but also *flexible* and *general* enough to include the varied specificity of every territory;
- with regard to the specific needs of the project, OTREMED aims at setting up a Strategic Territorial Observatory of the MED space. This means that its ultimate goal is to display and diffuse a vision of the development in the MED space that fits with its own capacities and potentials. In fact, defining a spatial vision for the MED space implies the necessity of focussing the attention only on few factors that might not be the most relevant in absolute terms, but that can better take into account what that area is and what it can become (and *vice versa* some relevant factors might have to be excluded).

What seems important is to consider both the strengths and the weaknesses of the MED space. The strategic factors for the enhancement of the competitiveness of the area will then have to focus the attention on the gap to be filled as well as on its many underexploited resources.

Consistent with the abovementioned assumptions, the present report describes the work done in the context of the phase 4.1 of the OTREMED project, addressed to the identification of the *territorial competitive* factors in the MED space. More specifically, the process of identification of

the competitive factors has been designed by Regione Piemonte and IRES Piemonte through a continuous debate among the external experts and the other partners of the OTREMED project. In particular, the most intense interaction has involved the representatives of Regione Lazio, who were in charge of the phase 3.3 of the project, addressed at defining the territorial model of the MED space (on the basis of which the competitive territorial factors had to be identified), and with the representatives of Regione Sicilia, who will have to define the indicators measuring the selected competitive factors. In addition, the draft proposals of this document have been discussed during two meetings with the Board of Experts<sup>1</sup>, who provided useful advices and comments in order to correct and improve it, focussing on the project goals in a stronger and clearer way.

As to the structure of the report, the document is organised in seven chapters. Chapters from 1 to 4 are devoted to the theoretical definition of the problem. More specifically, chapter 1 provides a synthetic review of the literature and the most important European documents dealing with the definition and the analysis of the competitiveness of nations and regions. Chapter 2 introduces to a territorialised approach to the analysis of the competitiveness of the MED space. After a brief introduction to the composition and the aims of the European Community (EC) MED project OTREMED, it describes the different passages (consisting in a questionnaire-based survey among the OTREMED partners, and a validation process among the rest of the MED Regions) of the methodology adopted in order to detect the competitive territorial factors in the MED space (Phase 4.1). Chapter 3 aims at identifying the model of development representing the Mediterranean specificity. Main source of the information contained in this section is the document of Regione Lazio and BIC Lazio on the territorial characterisation of the MED space. Chapter 4 explains the rationale and the results of the process of identification of the territorial typologies describing the MED space on the basis of which the territorialised analysis of the MED competitiveness has been displayed. Chapter 5 describes the questionnaire that has been distributed to all the OTREMED partners and that has been the main mean for the identification of the territorial factors. Chapter 6 reports on the validation process that has been implemented with the collaboration of representatives of the Regions of the MED space that are not partners in the OTREMED project. More specifically, a preliminary draft document summarising the results of the questionnaires has been sent to representatives of these Regions asking them for comments. The rationale of this validation process was to make all the MED Regions aware of the aims and the preliminary results of the project and realise whether and to what extent they could represent a valuable model for all the Euro-Mediterranean area. Finally, in chapter 7 the final results of the questionnaires are presented and confronted with the territorial model emerging from the analysis of the Regione

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<sup>1</sup> The OTREMED project first Board of Experts (BoE) Meeting was held on March 10-11<sup>th</sup> 2011, in Rome. The second was held on October 6<sup>th</sup> 2011, in Rome.

Lazio (Phase 3.3), in order to provide the Regione Sicilia with all the relevant information necessary to display the list of the indicators of the competitiveness of the MED regions.

## 1. THE TERRITORIAL DIMENSION OF REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS

### 1.1. On the concept of territorial competitiveness

In the current globalised economy, the capacity of regions and nations to steer successful economic development and to guarantee the quality of life for their citizens relies, more and more, on the exploitation of specific local assets or, to say differently, on the valorisation of a selection of emerging *competitive territorial factors*.

Coherently, territorial governments at the various scales have increasingly turned to the identification of the best assets (both tangible and intangible) moulding the local competitive advantage. Nevertheless, the concept of competitiveness *itself* remains a quite ambiguous, especially when applied to the regional and urban economies (see: Camagni, 1999, 2002; Viesti, 2002).

On the one hand, it suffers from the fact that territories do not compete as private firms do: regions and nations are far more complex entities, since their aims are both economic and non economic in nature, and they are managed by authorities whose decisions are influenced by public as well as private issues (Krugman, 1997; Dematteis, 2001; Conti, 2002). On the other hand, it is characterised by great *vagueness*: too many different and contradictory processes have been used to describe the competitive advantage of a given territory, without considering that some of these processes are evidently conflicting (Plummer and Taylor, 2001a and 2001b; Sellers and Kwak, 2011). For instance, increasing industrial activities often imply a loss of environmental quality.

Furthermore, the concept of competitiveness is always relative: if we assume that the competitiveness detects the capacity of *developing* better or faster than competitors, much of the evaluation of the competitiveness of a given territory relies on the selection of the competitors. In other words, according to the selected sample of comparison, a given region may result either outstanding (when compared with other weaker regions) or deprived (when compared with stronger ones).

An important step ahead in order to make this concept clearer relies in the distinction between *direct* and *indirect* competition. In fact, the territorial competition of a region relies on both measures addressed at attracting from the external (let's say global) environment the resources it needs to develop, and measures addressed at locally predisposing the conditions favourable to working, studying and living. Consistent with this definition, we may say that territories compete with each other as much to attract foreign investments and flows, as to define a specific productive role within the international labour market (Camagni, 2006).

Both the attractiveness and the international placement of the regional economy depend on similar common factors that include physical and socioeconomic features, as well as accessibility, environmental quality, relational capital and the learning capacity of the territory. Nevertheless, the "simple" presence in the local system of these competitive factors cannot guarantee for it to be successful: to be effective in terms of regional development they have to

create synergies between local stakeholders (whether internal or stemming from outside the region), in order to produce technological and organisational innovations and to generate increased performance.

To say differently, the competitiveness of territorial systems relies as much on the local capacity to integrate foreign firms to the local relationship structure, as to promote the internationalisation of the activities and interests of local actors. This is consistent with the condition that development processes in territorial systems are always affected by *endogenous* conditions (which include both tangible and intangible assets) as well as by *exogenous* conditions such as relationships or investment decisions at the various scales (Massey, 2005; Sassen, 2008). Unsurprisingly, in fact, as demonstrated by the work of Bakkevig and Jakobsen (2003), in many cases the search for territorial competitiveness went along with the search for intermediary institutions acting as facilitators between the local and the global interests.

Focussing on the *endogenous* conditions of the competitiveness, a vast literature, often referred to as 'competitive studies', has dealt with the identification of the determinants of the competitive advantage of territories. European urban systems, in particular, have been at the centre of a fertile branch of investigation emphasising the role of advanced knowledge, services and infrastructures in securing a favourable position in the global economy (Begg, 1999; Boddy, 1999; Cheshire, 1999; Lever, 1999; Lever and Turok, 1999; Simmie, 2002; McFarlane 2010). While studies on the competitiveness of regional productive systems (Porter, 1998; Charles and Benneworth, 1999; Favaretto, 2003; Gardiner, 2003; Storper, 1997), focussed mainly on the presence of competitive localised processes of learning (Florida, 1995; Morgan, 1997; Keeble *et al.*, 1999) and/or innovation (Lundvall, 1992; Cooke, 1998; Malecki, 2002; Moulaert and Sekia, 2003).

As a result, a different approach to competitiveness, more relational and trans-scalar in nature (Conti, 2002), started to diffuse among theorists and practitioners. Yet, this new approach went on being based on an evolutionary approach to development assuming that regions and nations always pursue similar objectives (economic power and well-being) that are reachable via (neo)liberal and capitalistic measures (Asheim and Dunford, 1997; Hodgson, 1999; Lambooy, 2002). In other words, as it has been denounced by representatives of a critical perspective on economic globalisation, it has contributed to promote a specific representation of the regional competitiveness that reflects the *institutional* and *cultural* values of the Western developed society.

In the perspective of this work this point is interesting since, as it has been argued by neo-institutional scholars, the discourses on development and competitiveness can contribute to a great extent to create the competitive advantage of regions and cities (Amin, 1998, 2002; Farole, Rodriguez-Pose and Storper, 2010). Local perceptions, visions, needs, and habits as well as institutions, rules, laws and powers play a critical role in both influencing the way development is intended (since they generate a specific view on development tasks and tools) and displaying competitiveness initiatives and policies (Gibson-Graham, 2005 and 2006). It

follows the interpretation and the initiatives displayed in order to reach a high degree of economic competitiveness may not be the same everywhere. Rather, the viable appropriate development paths are highly diversified worldwide.

For instance, in the case of the territory of Arab and Asian Orient, Said (1977) has provided a detailed explanation of how the mainstream description of development (or, better, underdevelopment) processes in Eastern countries was a creation of the Western ideology mythicising the supremacy of “the Modern” and demonising Arab terrorism and illegal immigration. In Said (1977), in particular, the system of stereotypes produced on the Orient was referred to as “Orientalism”. Similarly, authors such as De Rubertis (2008) or Minca and Giaccaria (2010) used the term “Mediterraneism” to detect the system stereotyped visions, representations and projects produced on the Mediterranean at the various scales. It follows that an emerging challenge in competitiveness studies applied to the Mediterranean basin is, first of all, to deconstruct the “interested meanings and purposes” hidden behind Mediterranean discourses and practices (Ribera-Fumaz, 2009; Rossi and Vanolo, 2012).

## **1.2. Towards a territorialised approach to the competitiveness of regions**

In Europe the European Commission (EC) has recently recognised the necessity to reform the cohesion policy via the adoption of what the OECD called the “new paradigm of regional policy”. The objective of this paradigm, which has been experimented with in various parts of the world in the past two decades, is “to reduce persistent inefficiency (underutilisation of resources resulting in income below potential in both the short and long-run) and persistent social exclusion (primarily, an excessive number of people below a given standard in terms of income and other features of well-being) in specific places. Places are defined through the policy process from a functional perspective as regions in which a set of conditions conducive to development apply more than they do in larger or smaller areas.

The essence of this new *territorial paradigm* of regional policy is contained in the Report Fabrizio Barca prepared in 2009 for the EU Commissioner for Regional Policy. In the Report’s view, this is the appropriate way both to cope with global development challenges as well as with the local expectations of territories, and to interpret the European Union (EU) Treaty task of promoting “harmonious development” and tackling “disparities” of regions and “regional backwardness” by means of cohesion.

Barca (2009) has in fact recognised that most EU policies did not pay due attention to their spatial impacts, rather they tended to adopt “spatially blind” approaches that risk to be highly inefficient and inequitable. In order to contrast this trend, he proposed a *place-based* approach for the period 2014-2020, based on the principle that *places* are important promoters of development discourses and practices. On the one hand, institutions tailored to the needs of places are recognised of critical importance for regional development. This idea is rooted in the concept that institutions are central to both market failures and government failures that create inefficiency and social exclusion (Barca, 2009). On the other hand, policy initiatives are

recognised to be successful above all when they are endogenously tailored to local conditions, rather than exogenously and uniformly imposed from top-down.

The request for an increased attention to territorial aspects is also contained in the European Territorial Strategy (ETS) and in some independent projects such as the European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion (ESPON). Among the ESPON 2006 program, the project no. 3.3, in particular, has dealt with the “territorial dimension” of the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies (ESPON, 2005). While the general aim of the ESPON 2013 program is currently adopting a place-based approach in providing evidence and knowledge about European territorial *structures, perspectives, and policy impacts* (ESPON, 2010). More specifically, it aims at supporting policies that are built on the diversity of the diverse territorial potentials embedded in every European region and city. Recently, in the document presenting the *Territorial Agenda* of the European Union 2020 (EU, 2011), it has affirmed that the EU objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth could be achieved only if the *territorial dimension* of the strategy itself would be taken into due account.

To this end, an interesting argument is that of the competitiveness of *regionally embedded* development paths. Although in Granovetter (1985), the term embeddedness was originally used to describe the influence of social institutions and networks on the agency of economic actors, in Grabher (1993) the success of firms was perceptively attributed to specific forms of embeddedness of their economic activity within the wider societal context. It follows that, from a more territorial perspective, the term can be used to describe the complex system of economic and extra-economic linkages that tie any economic agent to the local community it belongs to (Becattini, 2009; Rota, 2011).

In operational terms, the adoption of a territorialised approach to the competitiveness of regions and cities underlines the exigency of always declining the development tasks and initiatives according to the specific features, instances and problems of the considered territories. In particular, it strongly affirms the importance of *territorialising* both the analysis of their competitive advantage and the policy suggestions deriving from the analysis.

Nevertheless, the Barca's report is not very clear in this regard: it does not contain, for instance, any concrete suggestion on how, in practice, the proposal for the greater territorialisation of cohesion policy could be achieved actually. A clearer methodological indication comes from the STeMA methodology developed for the ESPON project 3.3 (Prezioso, 2007). At the basis of the STeMA approach there is the awareness that the only way to measure the competitiveness of a given territory is to balance the evaluation of its performances according to some traditional development variables (representing the ‘socioeconomic dimension’ of the regional competitiveness) with its underneath territorial capabilities influenced by specific geographical, institutional and cultural features (representing the ‘territorial dimension’ of the regional competitiveness).

Another interesting indication comes from the assumption that a viable way to analyse the level of territorialisation of the competitive advantage of a given territorial systems is to analyse the degree of synergy between the various policies insisting on it (Pedrazzini, 2006).

## 2. A TERRITORIALISED ANALYSIS OF THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE MED SPACE

### 2.1. The OMRAT-OTREMED Project

On October 31<sup>st</sup> 2006, the European Commission drew up the list of the territorial systems that were eligible for the transnational strands of the Euro-Mediterranean (MED) territorial cooperation objective<sup>2</sup>. They included regions (NUTS 2 level) and urban areas (LAU 1 and LAU 2 levels) pertaining to 10 EU countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea: Cyprus (the entire country), France (Corse, Languedoc-Roussillon, Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur, Rhône-Alpes), Greece (the entire country), Italy (Abruzzi, Apulia, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Lazio, Liguria, Lombardy, Marche, Molise, Umbria, Piedmont, Sardinia, Sicily, Tuscany, Veneto), Malta, Portugal (Algarve, Alentejo), Slovenia (the entire country), Spain (Andalusia, Aragon, Catalonia, Balearic islands, Murcia, Valencia, Ceuta and Melilla), United-Kingdom (Gibraltar). The macro-region resulting from these 48 regions and areas is also renowned as MED space:

Figure 2 – The regions and urban areas forming the MED space



Source: [www.programmemed.eu/en/about-the-programme/cooperation-space.html](http://www.programmemed.eu/en/about-the-programme/cooperation-space.html)

One of the main priorities of the MED territorial cooperation objective is to help Euro-Mediterranean regions to develop a common vision and common initiatives pursuing economic development and territorial cohesion. The rationale of the MED initiative stands in the recognition that the Mediterranean is an area of outstanding uniqueness with an extraordinary natural and cultural heritage whose use, unfortunately, has not always been balanced or coherent. A reason for this is that key actors (mainly regional institutions) with competences in territorial governance in the Mediterranean area often face difficulties in the management of land use and development since they do not cooperate at the MED level, coordinated decisions are hampered by the lack of a homogenised cartography and the lack of territorial factors and

<sup>2</sup> Source: [www.programmemed.eu/en/about-the-programme/cooperation-space.html](http://www.programmemed.eu/en/about-the-programme/cooperation-space.html).

indicators of reference able to anchor/embed territorial balance patterns<sup>3</sup>. Moreover, in 2007, the INSPIRE directive promoted the exchange and harmonization of spatial information within the European Union<sup>4</sup>.

Consequently, the regional and urban authorities participating to projects supported by the MED program are asked to make efforts towards the identification of shared/common characteristic problems and solutions, in the context of a wider Euro-Mediterranean competitive strategy.

In such a context moves also the OMRAT-OTREMED project<sup>5</sup>. More specifically, the OTREMED project is capitalising (and updating) the results of a previous EC project on the Mediterranean regions (PIC RM project), with the aim of creating “The territorial observatory of the Mediterranean regions and the competitiveness of the Mediterranean”. In doing that, the project adopts a double approach: i) identifying levers to enhance regional competitiveness through the elaboration of a tool that will be able to orient the decision making process; ii) looking for a better application of the INSPIRE directive in the MED space.

Moreover, the partners of the project have assumed that both the development topics and the indicators that are currently used in order to measure the competitiveness of the Mediterranean regions tend to have different degrees of incidence, depending on both the geographical scale and the specific features of the regions and the local territorial systems forming the regions<sup>6</sup>. It follows the internal territorial diversification of the MED space plays a dramatic role in moulding its competitive advantage, both in positive and negative terms.

OTREMED's aim is to develop a spatial analysis and planning tool aiming at improving the competitiveness of the MED space. More specifically, it pursues three main objectives<sup>7</sup>: 1) To establish a common and transferable methodology, which will contribute to the definition of assessment patterns for spatial planning and facilitate the decision-making process, according to a joint territorial strategy for the MED territory; 2) To enhance the MED space competitiveness in order to ensure economic growth, jobs creation, and social cohesion; 3) To impact positively on policies that promote a balanced and sustainable territory development. To reach the project aims, OTREMED partners will carry out a series of activities (13 actions) organised in different phases (from 1.1 to 5.4).

In this report, the methodology and the results of the phase 4.1 of the OTREMED project, which is addressed to the identification of the territorial factors that describe the competitiveness of the MED regions (Partner responsible of the phase: Regione Piemonte), are illustrated and commented in detail. As we will discuss later on, this phase 4.1 assumes the results of the phase 3.3 (MED Space Territorial Characterisation) and develops the methodology for the

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<sup>3</sup> Source: [www.otremed.com/en/otremed-2](http://www.otremed.com/en/otremed-2).

<sup>4</sup> Further details at [inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu](http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu).

<sup>5</sup> See: [www.otremed.eu](http://www.otremed.eu).

<sup>6</sup> Source: the OTREMED kick-off meeting; Ljubljana, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

<sup>7</sup> See: [www.otremed.eu](http://www.otremed.eu).

design of the Mediterranean territorial strategy according to the inner territorial diversification of the MED regions.

## 2.2. The steps of the analysis

Project OTREMED phase 4.1 aims at detecting **a reduced list of territorial factors describing the competitive advantage of the Euro-Mediterranean space**. Consistent with the more general rationale of the project, the factors have to be immediately understandable by an international audience (expert or not) and easily transformable into measurable variables, either quantitative or qualitative.

In order to fulfil this aim, the authorities responsible of this phase (Regione Piemonte and IRES Piemonte) have adopted an analytical process that comprises two main steps:

- a *survey* among the regional authorities that are partners in the OTREMED project. This step assumed the form of an *internal diagnosis* process developed within the OTREMED project;
- a *validation procedure* with the representatives of the Euro-Mediterranean Regions that are not partners in the OTREMED project. This step was intended to be a process of *external diagnosis*<sup>8</sup>.

Both the steps were developed via the predisposition of questionnaires (see: Annex I and Annex II) that have been distributed by email at the end of June 2010 and at the end of October 2010 respectively. The adoption of a questionnaire-based methodology, in particular, was determined by the fact that we wanted to take into due account the specific visions on regional development (and the related competitiveness objectives and tools) that characterise every region in the MED space.

With regard to the *survey*, in its turn it implied three main methodological passages (that will be explained further in the following sections of this report):

- the identification of the model of development representing the “Mediterranean specificity” in the larger EU territory (see: Region Murcia, 2010 and 2011). This passage consisted in a process of preliminary discussion<sup>9</sup> and subsequent acquisition of the outcomes of the phase 3.3 developed by the Region Lazio (see chapter 3);
- the identification of the territorial typologies (or *territories*) describing the Mediterranean specificity (see chapter 4);
- the predisposition of a questionnaire (see annex 1) addressed to provide the EU with a territorialised reading of: i) the degree of priority of the challenges affecting the MED space; ii) the factors the MED space has at its disposal in order to cope with key

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<sup>8</sup> This phase also enjoyed the results of another type of external diagnosis that consisted in the capitalisation of the feed-backs and the comments provided by the board of experts of the OTREMED project.

<sup>9</sup> In the context of the OTREMED project, the partners in charge for the phases 3 and 4 (Regions: Lazio, Piemonte, and Sicilia) organised in Rome two one-day brainstorming meetings (on October 6<sup>th</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup>) in order to share and coordinate both visions and efforts.

challenges; iii) the policies the MED space is implementing in order to cope with key challenges (see chapter 5).

With regard to the *validation process*, it implied the elaboration of:

- a synthesis of the preliminary results (updated at the end of October 2010 approximately) of the analysis developed via the survey;
- few precise queries asking the opinion of the regional representatives participating to the validation (see chapter 6).

As we have mentioned, the aim was to detect a reduced list of territorial factors that are relevant for the “identification of current and expected territorial models” characterising the MED regions and for the “identification of a proposed territorial model” (see: Region Murcia, 2011). In addition, the methodology also aimed at shedding some light on the ongoing dynamics of territorial development in the MED space via the identification of the policies activated - in the different territories - in order to cope with the most important challenges affecting the Mediterranean regions.

### 3. THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE MODEL OF DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTING THE *MEDITERRANEAN SPECIFICITY*

This chapter summarises the results of the phase of the OTREMED project addressed at characterising the Mediterranean model (phase 3.3) that have been adopted in the identification of the territorial competitive factors of the MED space (phase 4.1). To say it differently, most of the information here described directly derives from the work done by Regione Lazio and BIC Lazio.

Via the distribution of two questionnaires to the partners of the project, Regione Lazio and BIC Lazio have identified which are, according to the specific perspective of OTREMED Regions:

- the most important development challenges;
- the most important development issues among the selected challenges.

More specifically, the Regione Lazio and BIC Lazio firstly considered the literature, existing studies on the European and Mediterranean regions (namely: the reports of ESPON projects and the document of Region Murcia summarising the work done by the previous PIC-RM project<sup>10</sup>) as well as important EC policy documents<sup>11</sup> in order to produce a preliminary list of the “thematic areas” and “key topics” describing the development challenges affecting the Mediterranean regions<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> In the document “Basic Criteria for the Creation of a Territorial Observatory for Mediterranean Regions: OMRAT-OTREMED project” realised by the lead partner of the OTREMED project (Region Murcia, 2011) the results of the PIC RM project are considered in order to detect the territorial competitive challenges affecting the Mediterranean macro-region, i.e.: revitalisation of the urban system; research and development hot spots; urban/rural relationships; access to transport; access to Information and communication technologies (ICT); energy sustainability; disaster-related risk prevention; sustainable use and management of natural resources; sustainable use and management of cultural resources; sustainability of regional economic development; governability, social participation and quality of life.

<sup>11</sup> For instance: the document EU 2020 “Regions 2020: An Assessment of Future Challenges for EU Regions”, the Territorial Agenda, etc.

<sup>12</sup> See Regione Lazio report on MED space Territorial Characters.

Table 1 – The Mediterranean challenges: main thematic areas and key topics

		Thematic areas and Key topics
1 Revitalisation of the urban system	1A. Development and population distribution	It refers, in particular, to the issues of the demographic change (growth rate of urban population, aging society, immigrant flows, etc.) and the distribution of inhabitants (gentrification, urban justice, centre-periphery relationship, shrinking cities etc.). As thematic area, in fact, it focuses on the dynamics of the population in MED regions, with a special interest to the following key topics: demographic change and population distribution (1a.1); population growth and aging, critical mass (1a.2); immigration / integration (1a.3)
	1B. Property development	It refers, in particular, to the risks related to the phenomenon of second houses or vacancy houses, especially in mountain areas and islands and the rising of cities becoming “dormitory suburbs” for commuters. In particular, since in the MED space the permanence in particular areas of traditions and lifestyles has demonstrated to be a mean to reach high degrees of resilience, an emerging topic related to the issue of property development is the relationship, the rooting, the coherence existing between inhabitants (workers, resident people, commuters) and their settlements (1b.1).
	1C. Wealth	It refers to the issue of wealth distribution in urban societies. Since spatial wealth distribution and its trend is important to understand if some urban systems, within the region, are moving toward its own regeneration, in the MED space a key topic related to this subject is the spatial distribution of wealth in the region (1c.1).
	1D. Land use/ dispersed growth	It refers, particularly, to the issue of urban sprawl. Starting from the consideration that the process of anthropic modification present in the region; the land cover, the use of soil needs to be analyzed together with the settlement model and the type of functions present in the regions, emerging key topics related to this issue are: Urbanization and soil consumption degree and settlement models (1d.1) and planning strategies (1d.2)
	1E. Increase access and connections	It refers, namely, to local accessibility issues. Considering that easy, quick and economic accessibility to information and different places of the living space is a way to increase quality of life and modernization of a region, a key topic emerging for the MED space is the system of accessibility and mobility in the urban systems of region, with regard to territorial and extraterritorial connections (1e.1)
	1F. Improve quality of life	It refers, namely, to the issue of the accessibility to basic services such as health and instruction, but also other services for the population such as services to elderly people, insane people, infant, children, poor people, families, unemployed persons. Considering that the provision of public services and equipments, their accessibility, affordability and capability to match the public needs is an important component of the quality of life on inhabitants, a key topic related to this issue is the availability and accessibility of basic services for the population such as health and instruction (1f.1).
2 Research and development	2A. Access to knowledge	This is the case of regional excellence in research and development (R&D) activities and qualified, well-educated and trained human capital. Considering that education, culture, high level formation, when contributing to the full employment and the economic equilibrium of the region, are likely to be positively related to economic development, a main topic for the MED region is the presence of University, higher education centres, public and private R&D centres feeding relationships between academia and the world of work (2a.1)

	2B. Matching	It deals with the triple helix model, i.e. the networking capacity among firms, research and academic institutions and government institutions. Consistent with the fact that synergy and matches between academia research and the enterprises is a key asset in order to push the competitiveness and innovation capacity of a regional economy, a key topic here is the real cooperation between academia and research actors and economic actors (2b.1)
3 Urban - rural relationship	3A. Crisis of rural	It about the urban-rural conflict, i.e. the presence/ absence of strong regional integration of functional urban areas and their surroundings. Considering that the conflicts and the crisis in rural areas , as well as the dichotomy between urban and rural areas and the transformation in the regional rural economy are increasing, asking for a better comprehension of the opportunities for the rural world to recover, a key topic in the MED space is the scenery differentiation between the different settlement patterns and their consequences in terms of economic efficiency and competitiveness of contexts (3a.1)
	3B. Strengthening of functional areas	It refers namely to the issue of the (social, economic, physical) marginalization of small urban centres. Consistent with the fact that FUA-Functional Urban Areas are main drivers of regional development and typically representative realities in the Euro-Mediterranean space, especially according to their local identity and culture of places rather than their functional excellence, a key topic results in the phenomenon of small and medium urban centres and their crucial role in the regional economic sector (3b.1)
4 Access to transport	4A. Freight supply and push areas	It is above all the case of freight transport and logistics. Starting from the consideration that problems relating to the overloading of transport corridors congestion and the problems of effective and sustainable connections are increasing, a MED major topic that emerges here is the freight supply network and the dynamics of supply and demand of the regional logistics system (4a.1)
	4B. Passenger transport and push areas	It refers namely to passenger transport and logistics. Consistent with the fact that the degree of accessibility of people to large urban nodes or infrastructure (airlines, railways and waterways) at the different geographical scales (both local, regional and international) can determine the level of competitiveness of a region a related key topic is the supply of passenger transport services (collective transportation systems and metropolitan areas mobility) and the structural, functional and spatial organisation of the transport network (4b.1)

5 Access to information and communication technologies	5A. Enterprises	It refers namely to internationalization and technology transfer in firms. Considering that a major tool available to businesses in order to face global challenges is the access to information in a interactive and participative way, a key MED topic is the transfer of technology as a lever to technological development, diversification, innovation and internationalisation (5a.1)
	5B. Society	It refers namely to the diffusion of e-government services. Especially in the weakest areas in the Mediterranean, urban residents' access to information is a key factor for the development and social inclusion. From this point of view, computer networks and investments in telecommunication infrastructure play a crucial role in order to increase the access to information and related services. In the MED space, a key topic is access to online services (e-government) enabling the transparency in the information (5b.1).
6 Sustainable energy	6A. Dependence on energy, energy efficiency and gap	It refers to energy consumption issues and the development of renewable energy sources in order to solve environmental problems, guarantee safe energy supply, and reduce regional energy dependence. Starting from the consideration that sustainable energy is based on the production and consumption of energy in a social, environmental and economic sustainable way, in the MED space. Key topic related to such an issue is the diversification of energy sources with a larger use of alternative sources, less regional energy dependence, and gas emissions reduction (6a.1)
7 Disaster related risk prevention and management of natural resources	7A. Protection and prevention policies	It refers to natural and environmental hazards. The fight against climate change and risk prevention are challenges that require both common policies and strategies and territorial planning tools at the regional and local scales in order to achieve proper territorial development. The key topic here is the monitoring of risks and the use of qualified human resources in order to increase the effectiveness of the prevention from natural hazards and response capabilities (planning, management measures, restoration and environmental rehabilitation) (7a.1)
	7B. Economy and natural resources	It refers namely to the green economy or economy of natural and renewable energy resources. Natural resources in fact are major potentials for the economic development of many regions: investments in the environment and natural resources are pillars of a sustainable development model. Yet, balance between correct use and protection is essential for preserving these potentials. A key topic is thus nature as a resource to be protected but also a cost, an investment to be rationalised (7b.1).
8 Management of cultural resources	8A. Economy and cultural resources	It refers to both the management and valorisation of the local heritage (cultural, historical, landscape) and the presence of cultural resources. The concentration of cultural assets, in fact, is a key competitive factor pushing economic processes and attracting resources. More specifically considering that cultural investment is a strategic policy option, two major topics that emerge are in the MED space are: the protection and management of cultural resources and historical heritage (8a.1); the economic dimension of culture (investments, costs and revenues) (8a.2).
9 Sustainability of regional economic resources	9A. Sustainability of regional economic resources	It refers namely to unemployment, job creation, nativity and mortality of firms, size of the enterprises. Considering that, three key topics characterise the MED space: the employment / unemployment level (9a.1); the creation of new businesses by means of industrial development policies (9a.2); the composition (sectors of activities, specialisations, size, ownership etc.) of the regional productive fabric (9a.3)

10 Governance	10A. Policy capacity of public administration	It refers to the capability of the public administration of providing efficient and effective services at the regional and local level (e.g. bureaucratic procedures, anagraphic services etc.). More specifically it deals with the capacity of defining objectives based on a shared vision, elaborating and implementing effective policies, attracting financial resources and using them in an efficient (including EU Funds). Two key topics can be then detected: EU funding attraction, spending and utilization (10a.1); the organisation of the Public Administration in order to provide high quality and diversified services in an efficient and effective way (10a.2).
	10B. Participation and subsidiarity	It refers to multilevel (vertical and horizontal) governance with a focus on the relationships among institutions and administrative entities. Starting from the consideration that the vertical and horizontal cooperation among different government levels and the presence of institutional democratic processes play a strategic role in policy making, a key topic for the competitiveness of the MED space consists in the efficiency of public administration and the diffusion of subsidiary and democratic participation by means of an inclusive participative process (10b.1).
11 Landscape Management	11A. landscape management	It refers namely to the management and valorisation of landscape. Considering that good practices in the sustainable landscape management is a key regional issue, a major challenge consist in the regional capacity of implementing the European legislation and other measures dealing with landscape management. To say it differently a key topic here is the regional institutional framework and responsibilities for landscape management (11a.1).

Source: authors' elaboration from the "Focus document on regional characterization of Mediterranean space" by Region Lazio.

Then, Regione Lazio and BIC Lazio used the results of the abovementioned questionnaires in order to obtain a shorter and refined list of key topics/issues (see Table 2) that are relevant in describing the specific development problems, challenges, opportunities and initiatives characterising the MED space.

Table 2 - Key development topics/issues in the MED space

<b>1 RIVITALISATION OF THE URBAN SYSTEM</b>
1A2 Population growth and aging, critical mass
1A3 Immigration/Integration
1D1 Urbanization and soil consumption degree and settlement models
1E1 Accessibility at different levels
1F1 Basic services and supply for the population
<b>2 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT</b>
2A1 University, higher education centres, public and private research
2B1 Cooperation
<b>3 CRISIS OF RURAL</b>
3B1 Economy of small and medium centres
<b>4 ACCESS TO TRANSPORT</b>
4A1 Freight supply

<b>5 ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES</b>
5A1 Degree of internalization and technology transfer 5B1 E-government diffusion
<b>8 MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>
8A1 Policies for land protection 8B1 "Culture" resource and economy
<b>9 SUSTAINABILITY OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC RESOURCES</b>
9A1 Employment dynamics 9A3 Structure and dimension of enterprises and economic framework
<b>10 GOVERNANCE</b>
10A2 Services/supply provision by public administration 10B1 Efficiency of public administration
<b>11 LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT</b>
11A1 Planning and policies framework

Source: Regione Lazio final report on MED space Territorial Characters

In addition, Region Lazio and BIC Lazio identified a second set of topics/issues (see Table 3) that are important Mediterranean challenges (renowned for instance, according to scholars and practitioners), although they have not been recognized as strategic areas of policy development by the surveyed partners.

Table 3 – Additional important development topics/issues in the MED space

<b>6 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY</b>
6A1 Energy demand and diversification
<b>7 DISASTER RELATED RISK PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES</b>
7A1 Natural hazards and environmental restoration measures
<b>10 GOVERNANCE</b>
10A1 Capacity of public administration

Source: Regione Lazio final report on MED space Territorial Characters

The key and additional topics/issues have been identified via a complex methodology based on the dynamic positioning ("vector method") of the OTREMED regions respect to the Mediterranean challenges mentioned in Table 1<sup>13</sup>.

Summarising, the diagnosis realised by Regione Lazio and BIC Lazio detected the following **functional and territorial characterisation of the MED space:**

- common cultural heritage to be enhanced and put in light as common economic base;

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<sup>13</sup> Further details on the methodology adopted by Region Lazio and BIC Lazio are contained in the final report on MED space Territorial Characters.

- specificity of settlements metropolis as “mother towns” part of this network of historical poles of Mediterranean;
- importance of urban and rural landscape as expression of stratification of cultures and economies;
- climate as main common factor for Mediterranean space integration;
- very high level of transformation of settlements and territory, risk for loss of identity especially in the southern metropolitan areas emerging countries;
- high level of environmental risk in the ancient settlements, hydrogeology, historical heritage maintenance;
- high level of environmental risks ( fires, drought, earthquakes);
- high level of danger for the ecological asset of the Mediterranean (pollution, fishery, infrastructures for transportation) also by the modifications due by modernisation process;
- very high level of modification and increasing of urbanisation of coastal territories;
- historical fragmentation of territories, towns and settlements; historical deep relationship between small and medium sized towns and the rural space: this relationship is the result of a development process in hundreds of years and that is the real added value for every region; globalisation and development policies needs can damage this value;
- prevalence and centrality of the relationship with the Mediterranean sea, in many cases to be re-interpreted against the globalisation process; need to enhance and stress the historical and cultural meaning of the historical, sea towns;
- high level of development of non - sustainable models for tourism in coastal areas;
- lack of conscience and fragmentation in Mediterranean countries and regions to develop strategies aimed at a real cooperation based on the common belonging and heritage.

Consistent with these results, which clearly state the great variety and complexity of the MED space, the subsequent phase of the OTREMED project (4.1) assumed a **territorialised approach** to the analysis of the competitive factors of the MED regions. In other words, the characterisation of the MED space suggested it was useful to consider both the development challenges and the competitive factors characterising this macro region from a more geographical perspective, distinguishing them according to the different types of territories forming the regions and areas of the MED space.

## 4. THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE TERRITORIAL TYPOLOGIES DESCRIBING THE MED SPACE

In order to develop a territorialised analysis of the competitiveness of the MED space, a preliminary step consisted in the recognition of some emerging territorial typologies in the MED regions. Although highly diversified<sup>14</sup>, the MED regions tended in fact to have/deal with some sub-regional areas with similar geographical and socioeconomic conditions, common problems and shared opportunities.

Similar attempts of classifying nations and regions of the European Union according to some emerging territorial features have been already pursued by several researchers and institutions. For instance, in 2004 Nordregio classified the mountain areas in Europe considering similar conditions of socioeconomic capital, accessibility to the infrastructures and the services, and the use of the land area.

Consistent with these attempts, the first passage of the analysis was the identification of the features characterising the Mediterranean areas, described according to a reduced set of territorial typologies. Then, the second passage was the classification of the MED land area according to the identified territorial typologies.

With regard to the specificity of the Mediterranean area, it is quite evident that, respect to other macro regions in Europe such as the *European core* or the *Atlantic Arch*, a peculiar feature of this area is the presence of vast rural areas - where intensive agriculture is favoured by the mild climate and Mediterranean weather conditions - mingled with some main metropolitan poles and several urban agglomerations, often localised in correspondence of ancient economic and trade corridors connecting port and coastal settlements with the continental ones. Alongside with the urban and rural areas, the Mediterranean space is also characterised by the presence of intermediary spaces characterised by low residential density, economic marginality, and a widespread presence of small and micro enterprises (SMEs) specialised in manufacture, agro-forest and handcraft activities. In the Mediterranean space it is also important to point out the presence, among the urban areas, of cities with diversified degrees of centrality and functional specialisation, as well as the presence a isolated, yet environmentally endowed, territories such as mountain areas and small islands.

Starting from these assumptions, two different existing classifying methodologies have been here considered in order to detect the emerging territorial typologies of the MED space:

- i) a modified version of the OECD classification of urban and rural regions. The OECD method<sup>15</sup> considers the share (%) of residents living in rural municipalities (with less than

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<sup>14</sup> In a relatively stretch region there is thus a highly diversified presence of altimetric (mountain, hills, and plains) and functional (urban and rural) areas. In other words, the territorial configuration of most of the regions (Nuts-2 level) that form the MED Space, is highly diversified not only at the regional (NUT 2) level, but also at the provincial (NUTS 3) one. See also the work of De Rubertis on Mediterranean development (2008).

<sup>15</sup> See OECD Regional Typology, GOV/TDPC/TI(2007)8, 2007, Paris, OECD.

150 inhabitants per square kilometre) in order to detect three typologies of NUTS 3 areas: mainly urbanised (where the population living in rural municipalities is less than 15%), highly urbanised (rural population between 15% and 50%) and highly rural (rural population more than 50%). However, as observed in the Italian *National Strategic Plan for Rural Development 2007-2013* (Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari e forestali, 2006) this method tends to fail in accounting for the highly varied territorial conditions of NUTS 3 regions. The Italian Ministry thus proposed a revised methodology that has been used to orient Italian regional rural plans, and that has been here adopted in the version proposed by the *Rural Development Program 2007-2013* of the Region Piemonte (Regione Piemonte, 2009)<sup>16</sup>;

- ii) the ESPON classification of European urban areas. In the context of ESPON project 1.1.1<sup>17</sup> “Urban areas as nodes in a polycentric development and their fields of international significance”, the most significant urban and metropolitan functional areas have been identified (76 Metropolitan European growth areas or MEGAs) and classified according to five main typologies: Global Nodes (2), European Engines (17), Strong MEGAs (8), Weak MEGAs (23), and Potential MEGAs (26)<sup>18</sup>. Of these, in the MED space there are 3 European Engines (Barcelona, Milan, Rome); 2 Strong MEGAs (Torino, Athens), 8 Potential MEGAs (Lisbon, Marseille, Nice, Lyon, Palma de Mallorca, Bologna, Valencia, Naples); 5 Weak MEGAs (Genoa, Ljubljana, Porto, Seville, Valletta).

More specifically, a first territorial typology (*MEGA urban poles*) was introduced to distinguish the urban areas with a recognised European centrality from other types of urban areas. Yet,

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<sup>16</sup> Respect to the OECD method, a first difference consists in the fact that the Italian method distinguishes the NUTS 3 regions that are provincial capitals and have more than 150 inhabitants per square kilometre from other types of urban areas. Then, the original classification of mainly urbanised area (population living in rural < 15%), highly urbanised (between 15% and 50%) and highly rural (> than 50%) is refined according to the fact that the municipalities are localised in mountain, hill or plain areas. The resulting 37 territorial typologies are then reduced (via a joint discussion with representatives of Italian Regions and Provinces) to 4 main homogenous macro-regions: i) urban poles; ii) rural areas with specialised intensive agriculture; iii) intermediary rural areas; iv) rural areas with comprehensive development problems.

Source: [www.reterurale.it/downloads/cd/PSN/Psn\\_21\\_06\\_2010.pdf](http://www.reterurale.it/downloads/cd/PSN/Psn_21_06_2010.pdf).

<sup>17</sup> See [www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Projects/Menu\\_ESPON2006Projects/Menu\\_ThematicProjects/](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_ESPON2006Projects/Menu_ThematicProjects/)

<sup>18</sup> Global Nodes are: London and Paris; European Engines are: Monaco, Frankfurt, Madrid, Milano, Roma, Hamburg, Brussels, Copenhagen, Zurich, Amsterdam, Berlin, Barcelona, Stuttgart, Stockholm, Düsseldorf, Vienna e Colonia. They are highly competitive cities, endowed with high level human capital and high accessibility. The Strong MEGAs are: Torino, Athens, Dublin, Helsinki, Oslo, Geneva, Göteborg, and Manchester. They are cities that play an important “relais” role in Europe (helping polycentric and balanced development). Potential MEGAs are: Prague, Warsaw, Budapest, Bratislava, Berne, Luxemburg, Lisbon, Lyon, Anvers, Rotterdam, Aarhus, Malmo, Marseille, Nice, Bremen, Tolosa, Lille, Bergen, Edinburg, Glasgow, Birmingham, Palma de Majorca, Bologna, Bilbao, Valencia, and Napoli. Although they are smaller cities often localised in the periphery of the European territory, they can play an important role in favouring polycentric development. Weak MEGAs are: Bordeaux, Bucharest, Cork, Gdansk-Gdynia-Sopot, Genoa, Katowice, Krakow, le Havre, Ljubljana, Lodz, Porto, Poznan, Riga, Seville, Sofia, Southampton-Eastleigh, Szczecin, Tallinn, Timisoara, Turku, Valletta, Vilnius, Wroclaw. They are the smallest cities, weak and marginalised respect to the European core.

respect to the typology “urban poles” proposed by the Italian Rural Plan, the urban areas were further classified according to *inland urban areas* and *coastal urban areas*. This distinction was introduced in order to take into due consideration the specificity of territorial assets and development challenges in Mediterranean coastal contexts. The remaining typologies here considered to analyse the territorial competitiveness of the MED space are those used by the Italian Rural Plan to classify the rural areas: *rural areas with intensive agriculture*, *intermediary rural areas*, and *rural and natural areas* (or rural areas with development problems in Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari e forestali, 2006). With regard to this final typology, an additional specific typology was also introduced in order to distinguish small island and archipelagos from the other types of rural marginalised areas such as deserts or mountains.

Table 4 – Correspondence matrix between the typologies of the Italian Rural Plan and those adopted by the OTREMED project

Italian Rural Development Plan	OTREMED project
Urban poles	MEGA urban poles
	Coastal urban areas
	Inland urban areas
Rural areas with specialised intensive agriculture	Rural areas with intensive agriculture
Intermediary rural areas	Intermediary rural areas
Rural areas with comprehensive development problems	Rural and natural areas
	Small islands and archipelagos

As a result, seven emerging Mediterranean territorial typologies were detected, characterised in both physical and functional terms:

1. **MEGA urban poles.** They are urban and suburban areas with reference to cities classified by ESPON project as *Metropolitan European Growth Areas*. More specifically, they are: *European Engines* (Barcelona, Milan and Rome), *Strong MEGAs* (Torino, Athens), *Potential MEGAs* (Lisbon, Marseille, Nice, Lyon, Palma de Mallorca, Bologna, Valencia, and Naples), *Weak MEGAs* (Genoa, Ljubljana, Porto, Seville, and Valletta);
2. **coastal urban areas.** They are urban and suburban areas with reference to *coastal* regional and provincial capitals (that are not MEGAs) and other main residential and economic settlements where agriculture is residual or menaced by urban sprawl (and related environmental pressure). They include, for instance: *residential provincial capitals* (important urban *nuclei* with a central residential function); *diffused residential areas* (where the sprawl phenomenon is intense and preeminent compared with others functions); *coastal touristic districts* (where the touristic sector is very important for the economy of the area; e.g. the “Costa del Sol” near Valencia in Spain, and the “Marina romagnola” in Italy); *productive, transport and logistics areas* (urban settlements with a preeminent productive function like ports or industrial systems);

3. **inland urban areas.** They are urban and suburban areas with reference to *inland* regional and provincial capitals (that are not MEGAs) and other main residential and economic settlements where agriculture is residual or menaced by urban sprawl (and related environmental pressure). They include, for instance: *residential provincial capitals*; *diffused residential areas*; *inland touristic districts* (e.g. touristic lake districts); *industrial districts* (areas where little and medium size industries are preeminent and mixed with medium cities; e.g. the Italian districts of Biella, Prato etc.) or *industrial urban systems* (areas where big size industries are preeminent and mixed with medium cities);
4. **rural areas with intensive agriculture.** They are formed by *plain areas* characterised by intensive agriculture functions, stock-breeding, and livestock farming. Cereals (such as rice, crop and wheat), vegetables (peppers, tomatoes, olive etc.) and fruits (oranges, apples, grapes, pears, cucumbers, kiwis etc.) are among the most widespread horticultural products cultivated in these areas;
5. **intermediary rural areas.** They are *hill areas* characterised by agriculture or residential and touristic specialisation. The landscape and cultural heritage is an important factor of this territory with the agriculture productions and agro-tourism or health-tourism. For instance: the wine districts in Italy (Langhe, Monferrato, Tuscany etc.), France, Spain and Greece;
6. **rural and natural areas.** They are *mountain or remote areas* with development problems, with low density often isolated, with low accessibility or demographic problems. Often they also include *protected areas* and *natural parks* or not massive *touristic areas* (e.g. some types of skiable domains, touristic lake districts and mountains). For instance: rural portions of the Alps, Apennines, Littoral and pre-littoral Catalan Cordillera, Sierra Morena, Dinaric Alps etc;
7. **small islands and archipelagos.** They are Mediterranean both stand-alone islands – with the exclusion of largest ones such as Sicily, Sardinia, Cyprus, Corse, Nisos Kriti/Crete, Euboea, and Mallorca – and islands that are part of an archipelago. The landscape or natural parks are the preeminent economic functions, sometime with a qualitative and not massive tourism.

Initially, the abovementioned typologies were intended not to be exhaustive. Rather, they were intended as the result of a preliminary attempt at classifying the MED space (both respect to the rest of the European territory and respect to its internal configuration) to be modified and enriched via the direct consultation (realised via a questionnaire-based survey and a validation procedure) of representatives of the MED Regions. In fact, in the questionnaires sent to both the OTREMED and the other MED Regions, respondents were asked to express their comments on the abovementioned typologies and, eventually, to modify them adding new typologies. Yet, as a result, just few Regions expressed some doubts on the capacity of the proposed typologies to represent all the MED territories - we will go deeper into this point in the chapter that summarises the results of the survey -, whereas no Regions proposed how to

modify them. Thus, we assumed it as the signal that MED Regions felt quite “comfortable” with the taxonomy preliminarily provided.

## 5. THE QUESTIONNAIRE-BASED SURVEY OF OTREMED REGIONS

### 5.1. The rationale and the structure of the questionnaire

As we have mentioned, a first questionnaire has been prepared and distributed to *all* the 13 partners of the OTREMED project in order to detect the territorial factors feeding the competitiveness of the MED Space.

More specifically, the regional authorities that received this questionnaire were: the General Directorate for Territory and Housing of the Region Murcia; the Regional Development and Coordinating Commission for the Region Algarve; the Secretary General of Spatial Planning and Urbanism of the Region Andalucía; the General Directorate for Territory and Landscape of the Region Valencia; the Mediterranean Institute; the Department for Strategic Programming, Spatial Policies and Housing of Region Piedmont; the General Directorate for Territorial Planning and Agreements. International and European Relations of Region Emilia-Romagna; the Directorate for Spatial and Urban Planning of Region Lazio; Abruzzo Sviluppo; Regional Agency LAORE Sardegna; Environment and Planning Assessorate - Planning Department of Region Sicilia; the Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts; the Laboratory for Graphics, Multimedia & GIS, Computer Engineering and Informatics Department of the University of Patras.

The *rationale* of the questionnaire was to obtain a territorialised perspective on the competitive advantage of the MED space. The *aim* of the questionnaire was to collect (directly from representatives of MED regions) relevant information about the different aspects of the competitiveness of the Mediterranean regions according to both the *challenges* (problems and opportunities) and the condition of *territorial diversification* that characterise this macro-region. In fact, as mentioned in paragraph 4 of this report, often the regions forming the MED space present different geographical, physical, socioeconomic conditions that imply a different set of development priorities.

As to the structure of the questionnaire (see: Annex I), it was organised into eight sections:

- I. *sources of information*. This section aimed at collecting basic information (name, surname, institutional role, contact details) about the interviewed persons, distinguishing them between: i) persons responsible of the filling in of the questionnaire; ii) other regional experts (scholars, technicians etc.) who have been asked for consultancy. The respondents are also asked to indicate the details of the *documents* (namely *strategic* and *planning* documents at the regional provincial or urban level) they considered as sources of information in order to fill the questionnaire in, distinguishing them according to: Regional Operative Programs (ROPs), Regional Rural Programs (RRPs), Regional Territorial Plans (RTPs), Regional Landscape Plans (RLPs), Regional/metropolitan Strategic Plans, etc. In particular, interviewed persons were asked to consider both the *state-of-the-art* of their regions – as it emerged from the *concrete initiatives and events*

- II. *territorial typologies*. This section aimed at building a shared view on the territorial typologies characterising the Euro-Mediterranean space in a prevalent/predominant way. The interviewed persons were thus provided with a preliminary list of seven territorial typologies (MEGA urban poles; Coastal urban areas; Inland urban areas; Rural areas with intensive agriculture; Intermediary rural areas; Rural and natural areas; Small islands and archipelagos; see paragraph 4) and they were asked to mention, for each of them, some examples of existing regional and sub regional territorial systems. Especially in the case they did not agree with the proposed typologies, they were also asked to express their comments and propose how (and why) to modify them;
- III. *classify your region*. This section aimed at classifying the regions (NUTS 2) and areas (NUTS 3) forming the MED space, according to the territorial typologies described in the previous section of the questionnaire. In order to do that, the respondents were provided with the list of the provinces (NUTS 3 level) corresponding to their regions (NUTS 2 level) and they were asked to indicate, for each of these provinces, the share of total land area corresponding to every territorial typology in a prevalent way;
- IV. *territorialised priorities*. This section aimed at constructing a territorialised hierarchy of development challenges. The regional respondents were in fact asked to quantify the degree of priority (high, average, low) they attributed to the 22 key development topics affecting the MED space<sup>19</sup> (see Table 1), diversifying them according to the existing types of Mediterranean territories. In other words, via the adoption of a ‘challenges-territories matrix’<sup>20</sup>, this section allows for a *territorialised* description of the key development challenges (those characterised by the highest degree of priority) in the MED space;
- V. *territorialised factors*. This section aimed at detecting, for every key combination of territories and challenges (corresponding to the cells with value 3 in the matrix contained in the prior section of the questionnaire), the corresponding *local factors*. More precisely, it aims at detecting a territorialised list of resources, assets, and conditions the MED regions have to cope with, in order to manage their most important development challenges. These factors can be intended either as ‘actual’ existing factors that are ignored or inadequately (badly or scarcely) exploited in local development processes, or ‘desired’ factors that are not yet present in the considered territory. They can be both *hard* (infrastructures, human capital, firms, etc.) and *soft* (institutions, know-how, etc.) factors;

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<sup>19</sup> As they have been identified by the Lazio Region in the document ‘Focus document on regional characterization of Mediterranean space’, and they have been reported in paragraph 2 of this report (see the third column of Table 1).

<sup>20</sup> The size of the challenges-territories matrix was 22x7.

- VI. *territorialised Policies*. This section aimed at detecting, for every key combination of territories and challenges (corresponding to the cells with value 3 in the matrix contained in the prior section of the questionnaire), the corresponding *local policies*. More precisely, it aims at detecting, for every recognised key topic/issue, a territorialised list of local policies, measures, initiatives<sup>21</sup> that have been started by the MED regions in order to cope with their most important development challenges. These policies can include both financed and approved measures at the regional and metropolitan scale;
- VII. *challenges Explained*. This section provided and illustrated the list of the MED challenges mentioned in the sections IV, V, and VI;
- VIII. *examples of Territorial Factors & Policies*. This section provided some examples of territorial factors and territorial policies to be used to fill the sections V and VI in.

The paragraph that follows summarises the replies to the questionnaire provided by the OTREMED partners.

## 5.2. The results of the survey<sup>22</sup>

### 5.2.1. Sources of information

Calculating the frequencies of the replies given by the OTREMED partner in the section 1 of the questionnaire, we realise that the documents the respondents used as sources of relevant information in order to reply to the questions contained in the questionnaire were above all Regional Territorial Plans since 10 of 13 partners mentioned it.

Table 5 - Sources of information (frequencies of replies)

	frequencies
Regional Operative Program (ROP)	9
Regional Rural Program (RRP)	9
Regional Territorial Plan (RTP)	10
Regional Landscape Plan (RLP)	6
Regional / Metropolitan strategic Plan	8
Other (i.e. sub-regional territorial or sectoral plans)	6

Other important documents (mentioned by 9 partners) were: *Regional Operative Programs* (ROPs) and *Regional Rural Programs* (RRPs). 8 partners mentioned Strategic Plans at the regional or metropolitan scale. 6 partners mentioned the *Regional Landscape Plans* (RLPs) and other types of documents such as energy, information and transport plans.

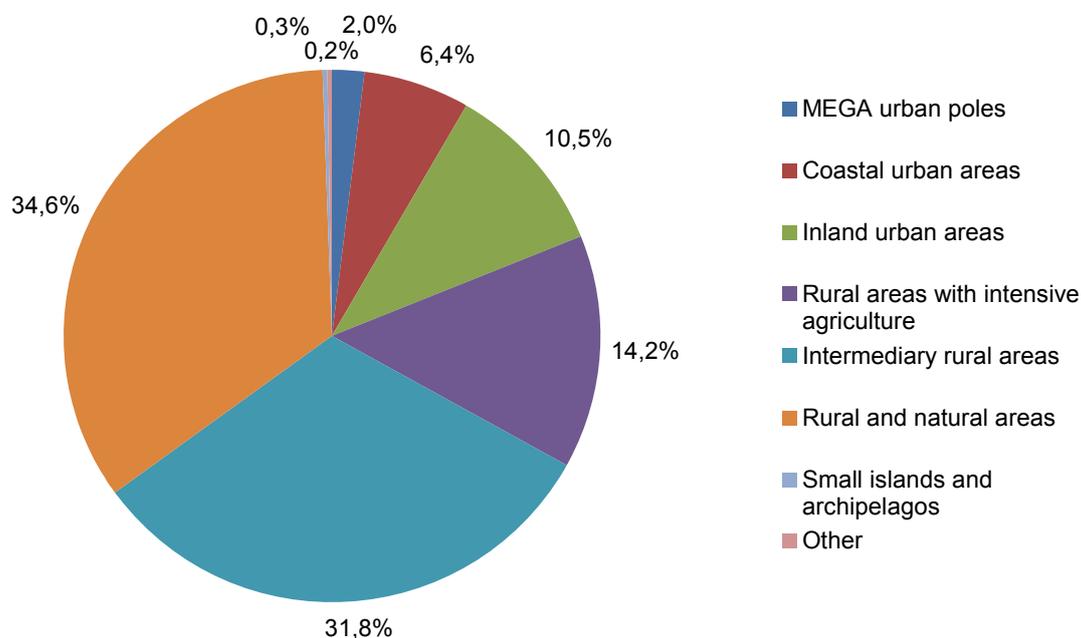
<sup>21</sup> From the consideration of the replies given by the MED regions to this section it is possible to trace down a dynamic framework of the MED competitive advantage, i.e. what is the direction assumed by regional policies, what replies are they giving to the problem of competitiveness).

<sup>22</sup> All of the 13 partners of the OTREMED project replied to the questionnaire; Andalusia did not reply to the section III of the questionnaire.

### 5.2.2. Territorial typologies

With regard to the territorial characterisation of the Mediterranean, the replies of the OTREMED partners allowed for the following geographical distribution of territories (see Graph 1)<sup>23</sup>.

Graph 1– Territorial typologies in the OTREMED space (% overall land area).



As a result, the importance of the Mediterranean rural areas clearly emerged. Indeed, most of the total land area of the OTREMED space (i.e. the space formed by the union of all OTREMED regions) is characterised by *rural and natural areas* (almost 107,000 skm; corresponding to the 34.6% of the total land area). The *intermediary rural areas* are the 31.8%, followed by *rural areas with intensive agriculture* (14.2%). Urban territories occupy less than 20% of the total area. *Inland urban areas*, in particular, constitute the 10.5%. *Coastal urban areas* occupy 6.4%. *MEGA urban poles* account for 2.0%. *Small islands and archipelagos*, accounting for 0.2% of the overall land area, represent a residual typology in the network of the OTREMED regions, together with a remaining 0.3% of unclassified territory (as we will see, due to its too high mixed presence of territorial typologies). Certainly, this result is largely due to the composition of the surveyed sample: indeed, most of the small islands in the Mediterranean belong to regions that are not OTREMED regions. Nevertheless, it also reflects the structural weaknesses of this specific territorial typology often residual and marginalised (ESPON, 2011<sup>24</sup>).

In the table that follows (Table 6) the extent of every territorial typology is referred to the different OTREMED region.

<sup>23</sup> This graph was displayed used the direct replies of 11 partners. The situations of Abruzzi and Andalusia were estimated on the basis of the partial replies obtained from them.

<sup>24</sup> ESPON (2011), The Development of the Islands-European Island and Cohesion Policy (EUROISLANDS): Targeted Analysis 2013/2/2. Final Report, www.espon.eu.

Table 6 – Territorial typologies in the OTREMED regions (skm)

	Abruzzi	Algarve	Andalusia	Emilia-Romagna	Western Greece	Lazio	Murcia	Piedmont	Paca	Sicily	Sardinia	Slovenia	Valencia	OTREMED
MEGA urban poles	0	0	135	2036	0	1285	0	1879	682	0	0	179	136	6332
Coastal urban areas	248	1348	7234	963	1712	1191	810	0	369	2140	469	836	2344	19664
Inland urban areas	0	0	10468	2700	1389	2058	2272	2865	959	421	1720	2948	4563	32367
Rural areas with intensive agriculture	2461	150	7496	2873	1822	1180	3553	4388	5453	2428	4781	5521	1844	43950
Intermediary rural areas	1522	1298	41085	7466	2014	7459	3573	5514	1915	10656	9342	0	6744	98587
Rural and natural areas	6564	2197	14993	6089	4369	4011	292	10758	22279	9788	7377	10798	7623	107139
Small islands and archipelagos	0	0	0	0	0	12	21	0	15	284	414	0	1	747
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	790	0	0	0	0	0	0	790
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10795</b>	<b>4994</b>	<b>81411</b>	<b>22126</b>	<b>11306</b>	<b>17196</b>	<b>11311</b>	<b>25403</b>	<b>31673</b>	<b>25716</b>	<b>24103</b>	<b>20282</b>	<b>23254</b>	<b>309570</b>

As a result, the rural areas emerge as important in all regions although with some interesting differences. For instance, rural and natural areas are the most important territorial typology in Abruzzi, Algarve, Western Greece, Piedmont, PACA, Slovenia, and Valencia. Intermediary areas are the most widespread in Andalusia, Emilia-Romagna, Lazio, Sardinia, and Sicily. While Murcia presents a more balanced distribution of urban and rural areas. Small islands are present in Lazio, Murcia, PACA, Sicily, Sardinia, and Valencia. MEGA urban poles are present in all the regions but Abruzzi, Algarve, Western Greece, Sicily, and Sardinia. Finally, in the case of Murcia, a portion of the regional area (0.3% of the total OTREMED land area) has not been classified. The reason is that this portion of territory was not referable to a prevalent typology, rather to a balanced mix of typologies. Analogously, the Slovenian partner observed that, although rarely predominant (since they are usually mingled with other urban and rural typologies), rural areas with winegrowing agriculture occupy most of the country: in the Provinces (NUTS 3) of Pomurska and Obalno-kraška, for instance, they occupy almost the 90% of the overall land area; the 80% in Podravska; the 70% in Spodnje-posavska; and the 60% in Savinjska. Analogously, the presence of a balanced mix of territorial typologies caused some difficulties to the Region Abruzzi in quantifying the extension of the rural areas in the Provinces (NUTS 3) of Teramo, Pescara, and Chieti.

These results are interesting too, since they shed some light on an emerging feature of the Mediterranean. Respect to other European macro regions, in fact, the MED space is characterised by a highly dispersed presence of residential and economic activities as well as by a highly fragmented nature of agricultural areas that often make uncertain the border between rural and urban areas.

### 5.2.3. Territorialised priorities

As we have mentioned, OTREMED regions were asked to quantify the degree of *priority* (1-low; 2-average; 3-high) they attributed to every combination of every Mediterranean development challenges (as they were identified at the time of the distribution of the questionnaires by the phase 3.3 of the OTREMED project<sup>25</sup>) with every Mediterranean territorial typologies (as they were identified in the text of the questionnaire and eventually modified by the respondents themselves<sup>26</sup>).

The Table 7 shows the frequency of the replies that obtained the highest degree of priority (3-high).

Table 7 – OTREMED development priorities (frequency of replies)

	1			2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11	
	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F	2A	2B	3A	3B	4A	4B	5A	5B	6A	7A	7B	8A	9A	10A	10B	11A	
	development and population distribution	property development	wealth	land use/ dispersed growth	increase access and connections	improve quality of life	access to knowledge	matching	crisis of rural	strengthening of functional areas	freight supply and push areas	passenger transport and push areas	enterprises	society	dependence on energy, energy efficiency and gap	protection and prevention policies	economy and natural resources	economy and cultural resources	sustainability of regional economic resources	policy capacity of public administration	participation and subsidiarity	landscape management	
MEGA urban poles	7	2	3	3	3	3	6	7	1	1	7	6	6	1	5	2	2	5	6	2	3	3	
Coastal urban areas	9	10	5	8	6	3	8	7	1	3	7	8	5	2	7	6	3	7	7	4	5	7	
Inland urban areas	6	3	2	5	3	2	7	7	2	5	7	7	7	2	6	3	2	7	5	1	2	4	
Rural areas with intensive agriculture	3	1	3	5	1	3	2	2	2	3	0	2	2	3	3	5	5	2	4	3	4	9	
Intermediary rural areas	1	4	2	5	2	2	2	2	7	4	1	1	2	2	5	5	8	4	3	2	4	10	
Rural and natural areas	6	4	5	1	7	7	2	2	5	4	0	2	1	5	5	8	13	4	3	3	6	11	
Small islands and archipelagos	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	4	0	0	0	0	3	

As a result, we obtained a quite distributed set of preferences: most of the combinations between the development challenges and the territorial typologies reported in the matrix (98 of 154) registered a frequency lower than 5. In 56 cases the frequency was between 5 and 8. Just 5 combinations registered frequency higher than 8. Evidently, it implied that OTREMED

<sup>25</sup> Since the survey of the phase 4.1 of the OTREMED project (Competitive territorial factors) started when the phase 3.3 (Characterisation of the Mediterranean) had not ended yet, it reported in the text of the questionnaire the preliminary version of the Mediterranean challenges (see table 1 in chapter 2).

<sup>26</sup> As we have already explained, respondents could modify the list of territorial typologies.

Regions had a quite diversified perception on the most important challenges they had to cope with and the most exposed territorial systems to these challenges.

In order to synthesise the collected data and detect the OTREMED competitive model, we considered *only* the combinations with frequency 5 or higher (see cells in colour in the table 7).

The result of this selective procedure can be qualitatively described in terms of a *territorialised hierarchy of development priorities*:

- *coastal urban areas* are key contexts with regard to most of the Mediterranean key development topics (16 of 22). More specifically, these areas are recognised as strategic as far as the objectives of land use regulation (demographic distribution, property development, dispersed growth, and accessibility), technological innovation (access to knowledge and demand-offer matching), transport activities, and the sustainable valorisation of different types of resources (cultural, economic, natural, landscape, and energy) are concerned;
- *inland urban areas* and *MEGA urban poles* also emerge as key development contexts according to 11 and 9 challenges respectively. When compared to coastal areas, inland areas and MEGA urban poles are less affected by problems of traffic congestion, property development and environmental risks. MEGA poles also do not suffer from problems of urban sprawl and accessibility. While inland areas are considered key contexts for the strengthening of functional areas. This variety of challenges affecting the OTREMED urban areas is consistent with both the highly diversified nature of OTREMED urban areas and the contingent complexity of the economic, social and environmental problems that affect any urban context;
- as to rural areas, *rural and natural areas* are key contexts according to 10 challenges. More specifically, these areas mainly cope with issues of: development and population distribution, accessibility and connections, the quality of life, environmental and energy conditions. Natural and landscape resources, in particular, are recognised strategic assets of regional development that are highly localised in these territories;
- other types of rural areas resulted to be far less strategic. *Intermediary rural areas* have been considered strategic with regard to 6 development topics (land use, crisis of the rural, energy dependency and production, natural resources, protection and prevention policies and landscape management). *Rural areas with intensive agriculture* have been considered strategic with regard to only the challenges of land use, protection and prevention policies, economy and natural resources, and landscape management. Nevertheless, these areas emerge as one of the most important areas (together with Intermediary rural areas and Rural and natural areas) as far as the target of landscape management is pursued;
- *small islands and archipelagos* are considered strategic territorial contexts with regard to none of the Mediterranean challenges. As the table shows, the highest frequencies (3 and 4) have been registered for protection and prevention policies, economy and

From a different perspective, we also realised that the most mentioned development priorities in the OTREMED network are:

- landscape management (frequency of replies: 47) in *coastal urban areas*, and all types of rural areas but small islands and archipelagos;
- economy and natural resources (37) in rural areas with intensive agriculture, intermediary rural areas, and rural and natural areas;
- protection and prevention policies (33) in coastal urban areas , rural areas with intensive agriculture, and rural and natural areas;
- dependence on energy, energy efficiency and gap (32) in all territorial typologies but rural areas with intensive agriculture and small islands and archipelagos;
- development and population distribution (32) in all types of urban areas (MEGA, coastal and inland) and in rural and natural areas;
- economy and cultural resources (29) in all types of urban areas.

On the other hand, the challenges with the lowest frequencies were: policy capacity of public administration (15), society (15), crisis of rural (18), strengthening of functional areas (20), and wealth (20).

Another interesting argument here was the relationship between the development models described by every OTREMED Region participating to the survey and the general OTREMED development model (resulting from the combinations of all regional replies).

Table 8 – Territorialisated development priorities consistent with the OTREMED model

	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F	2A	2B	3A	3B	4A	4B	5A	5B	6A	7A	7B	8A	9A	10A	10B	11A
	development and population distribution	property development	wealth	land use/ dispersed growth	increase access and connections	improve quality of life	access to knowledge	matching	crisis of rural	strengthening of functional areas	freight supply and push areas	passenger transport and push areas	entreprises	society	dependence on energy, energy efficiency and gap	protection and prevention policies	economy and natural resources	economy and cultural resources	sustainability of regional economic resources	policy capacity of public administration	participation and subsidiarity	landscape management
<b>OTREMED-13</b>																						
MEGA urban poles																						
Coastal urban areas																						
Inland urban areas																						
Rural areas with intensive agriculture																						
Intermediary rural areas																						
Rural and natural areas																						
Small islands and archipelagos																						
<b>ABRUZZO</b>																						
MEGA urban poles																						
Coastal urban areas																						
Inland urban areas																						
Rural areas with intensive agriculture																						
Intermediary rural areas																						
Rural and natural areas																						
Small islands and archipelagos																						
<b>ALGARVE</b>																						
MEGA urban poles																						
Coastal urban areas																						
Inland urban areas																						
Rural areas with intensive agriculture																						
Intermediary rural areas																						
Rural and natural areas																						
Small islands and archipelagos																						
<b>ANDALUSIA</b>																						
MEGA urban poles																						
Coastal urban areas																						
Inland urban areas																						
Rural areas with intensive agriculture																						
Intermediary rural areas																						
Rural and natural areas																						
Small islands and archipelagos																						

	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F	2A	2B	3A	3B	4A	4B	5A	5B	6A	7A	7B	8A	9A	10A	10B	11A
	development and population distribution	property development	wealth	land use/ dispersed growth	increase access and connections	improve quality of life	access to knowledge	matching	crisis of rural	strengthening of functional areas	freight supply and push areas	passenger transport and push areas	enterprises	society	dependence on energy, energy efficiency and gap	protection and prevention policies	economy and natural resources	economy and cultural resources	sustainability of regional economic resources	policy capacity of public administration	participation and subsidiarity	landscape management
<b>EMILIA ROMAGNA</b>																						
MEGA urban poles																						
Coastal urban areas																						
Inland urban areas																						
Rural areas with intensive agriculture																						
Intermediary rural areas																						
Rural and natural areas																						
Small islands and archipelagos																						
<b>LAZIO</b>																						
MEGA urban poles																						
Coastal urban areas																						
Inland urban areas																						
Rural areas with intensive agriculture																						
Intermediary rural areas																						
Rural and natural areas																						
Small islands and archipelagos																						
<b>MURCIA</b>																						
MEGA urban poles																						
Coastal urban areas																						
Inland urban areas																						
Rural areas with intensive agriculture																						
Intermediary rural areas																						
Rural and natural areas																						
Small islands and archipelagos																						
<b>PIEDMONT</b>																						
MEGA urban poles																						
Coastal urban areas																						
Inland urban areas																						
Rural areas with intensive agriculture																						
Intermediary rural areas																						
Rural and natural areas																						
Small islands and archipelagos																						
<b>PACA</b>																						
MEGA urban poles																						
Coastal urban areas																						
Inland urban areas																						
Rural areas with intensive agriculture																						
Intermediary rural areas																						
Rural and natural areas																						
Small islands and archipelagos																						

	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F	2A	2B	3A	3B	4A	4B	5A	5B	6A	7A	7B	8A	9A	10A	10B	11A
	development and population distribution	property development	wealth	land use/ dispersed growth	increase access and connections	improve quality of life	access to knowledge	matching	crisis of rural	strengthening of functional areas	freight supply and push areas	passenger transport and push areas	enterprises	society	dependence on energy, energy efficiency and gap	protection and prevention policies	economy and natural resources	economy and cultural resources	sustainability of regional economic resources	policy capacity of public administration	participation and subsidiarity	landscape management
<b>SICILY</b>																						
MEGA urban poles																						
Coastal urban areas																						
Inland urban areas																						
Rural areas with intensive agriculture																						
Intermediary rural areas																						
Rural and natural areas																						
Small islands and archipelagos																						
<b>SARDINIA</b>																						
MEGA urban poles																						
Coastal urban areas																						
Inland urban areas																						
Rural areas with intensive agriculture																						
Intermediary rural areas																						
Rural and natural areas																						
Small islands and archipelagos																						
<b>SLOVENIA</b>																						
MEGA urban poles																						
Coastal urban areas																						
Inland urban areas																						
Rural areas with intensive agriculture																						
Intermediary rural areas																						
Rural and natural areas																						
Small islands and archipelagos																						
<b>VALENCIA</b>																						
MEGA urban poles																						
Coastal urban areas																						
Inland urban areas																						
Rural areas with intensive agriculture																						
Intermediary rural areas																						
Rural and natural areas																						
Small islands and archipelagos																						
<b>WESTERN GREECE</b>																						
MEGA urban poles																						
Coastal urban areas																						
Inland urban areas																						
Rural areas with intensive agriculture																						
Intermediary rural areas																						
Rural and natural areas																						
Small islands and archipelagos																						

In particular, it was interesting to consider which combinations of development challenges and territories that have been considered strategic (degree of priority: 3) by every OTREMED Region “overlap” with those included in the OTREMED model (see Table 8). In doing that, it has been possible to evaluate to what extent the regional models were consistent with the general one. More specifically, the amount of overlapping cells showed that the development models of Andalusia (49), Lazio (42), Slovenia (41), Valencia (36), and Piedmont (33) were the closest to the OTREMED model. On the other hand, Abruzzi (10), Sicily (11), Western Greece (22), Murcia (23), Sardinia (24) and Algarve (27) showed the poorest overlapping.

#### *5.2.4. Key territorialised factors and policies*

After quantifying the degree of priority they attributed to every combination of Mediterranean development challenges and territorial typologies, in the sections V and VI of the questionnaire OTREMED partners were asked to indicate, with reference to the, a reduced list of regional factors and policies they considered important in order to cope with the selected challenges and territories. Of these, we considered only the factors and policies that corresponded to the combinations of challenges and priorities describing the general OTREMED model. To say differently, for every region we considered the factors and policies they indicated for every ‘OTREMED-consistent’ territorialised priority indicated in Table 8.

The result of this passage is reported in the table that follows<sup>27</sup>. Evidently, the collected information was too highly varied in order to detect the emerging territorial factors and policies. Moreover, as we knew, it reflected the perceptions and opinions of a reduced sample of regions.

Thus, in the following chapter 6 the results of the validation process with MED regions that are not partners in the OTREMED project are firstly presented and commented. Then, in chapter 7 these results are used to check the consistency of the obtained OTREMED model with the more general competitive model describing the MED space.

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<sup>27</sup> In reporting OTREMED replies, we translated them all in English. The Programme “Boucles Locales Haut Débit” was translated as Programmes for local broadband networks. Moreover, references to specific regional factors or policies were transcribed in more general terms. For instance, the sentence “The regional Law 1 Litorale that funds infrastructures for the development of coastal areas” was reported as “regional policy tools for the development of coastal areas”.

Table 9 – Territorial factors and policies according to key territorialised development priorities

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
1A. Development and population distribution	MEGA urban poles	Flows of immigrants; High concentration of population in core area: congestion and strong polarization of urban functions; Lack of young people, risk of gentrification; Number of new jobs, number of projects focused on cities attractiveness, number of new facilities created in deprived neighbourhoods, implantation of new enterprises, number of social allocations beneficiaries; ageing population; Lack of young people and scarce job opportunities.	Supporting integration of immigrants; No policies of rebalancing are carried out; a general regional service policy is implemented in metropolitan area; Urban policies for the creative economy, policies for the integration of immigrants, social housing policies; Regional Plan for Jobs creation, signed conventions between the region and the national agency for urban rehabilitation (ANRU); policies for: the integration of immigrants, social housing, young families, the welfare system, inclusion; Boost urban rehabilitation and regeneration
	Coastal urban areas	High concentration of settlements and population in coastal strips: dynamic and tendencies of continuous conurbations; Scarce job opportunities; high territorial density; Area with larger population density; aging population, seasonal fluctuations of tourists; Social integration of immigrants; Flows of immigrants; high rate of unemployment/ long term unemployment	Regional policy tools for the development of coastal areas; policies for young people, policies for creative economy, policies for the integration of immigrants; Lack of redistribution policies of population in territories; Local and regional policies; policies for: the integration of immigrants, social housing, young families, the welfare system, inclusion; Boost urban rehabilitation and regeneration; Policies for the integration of immigrants; local policies for the creative, innovative and sustainable economy, policies for the integration of immigrants
	Inland urban areas	Scarce job opportunities; Scarce job opportunities, risk of gentrification; Depopulation and population aging; ageing population, lack of job opportunities; Lack of young people and scarce job opportunities. scarce job opportunities	Policies for young people, policies for creative economy, policies for the integration of immigrants; Urban policies for the creative economy, policies for the integration of immigrants; Local and regional policies; policies for: the integration of immigrants, social housing, young families, the welfare system, inclusion; Boost urban rehabilitation and regeneration; local policies for the creative, innovative and sustainable economy, policies for the integration of immigrants
	Rural and natural areas	Depopulation; Lack of critical mass due to ageing of population and internal immigration; Lack of young people; scarce job opportunities; ageing population, lack of job opportunities; Ageing of the population and lack of generational replacement; Decrease of young population	Improving services supply; policies to support the population in rural systems are promoted by the RDP Rural Development Program; Policies for the integration of immigrants, local policies for the diffusion of ICT; policies for: the welfare system, rural development; Improvement of social equipments; Local policies for the creative economy
1B. Property development	Coastal urban areas	Land use consume; Trend to develop seasonal and second houses-settlements for tourist purposes; second houses, vacancy houses, restaurants and hotels; Number of urbanism documents (PLU, SCOT) with specific orientations on landscape preservation (not mentioned in the PACA PO); Widespread urban gentrification especially in the metropolitan areas; Massive presence of second homes and related land use; second/vacation houses. New green buildings; Great number of second houses, restaurants and hotels; presence of an important amount of empty houses	Regional, provincial and municipal planning; planning tools; Intervention programme of the Regional Land use Organization (EPRF); Requalification policies and urban regeneration initiatives; Local and regional policies; spatial planning policies, property taxes; Regional policies for real estate and property; policies supporting the compact city and the limitation of the possibility of new constructions in already saturated areas. Firm performance of the Coast law

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
1C. Wealth	Coastal urban areas	Small and medium enterprises, organisation of events; Larger concentration of economic activities and employment; Facilities for tourists; Seasonal activities; Concentration of wealth and the majority of economic activities. However, in periods of crisis, rising unemployment, cuts on social benefits and rising of costs of living.	Plan Estratégico para la Región; Regional policy; regional policies for the welfare system; Regional policies for the welfare system; In order to balance and improve cohesion and coherence in these areas, the Regional Territorial Plan proposed the path for the diversification of economic activities and to shorten the high dependence on tourism sector. However, the actual crisis tends to inhibit the global aim. It seems difficult to maintain the tourism sector in competitive terms, even much more difficult to proceed towards a change of paradigma. Meanwhile, the more vulnerable sectors of population are experiencing greater problems, related above all to unemployment and precarious labour conditions.
	Rural and natural areas	Economic crisis in rural mountain areas; Scarce presence of facilities for tourists, scarce entrepreneurial culture of local communities, presence of strong individual interests; Lower productivity and income than the rest of the territory; presence of facilities and services for tourists. Extensive agriculture of traditional products; Population living in the municipalities in this area are among the most poor of all Portuguese territory. The last two decades have been a period of a considering drainage of public and EC funds towards this area, but the results are far from satisfactory. The lowest municipal purchasing power in the whole country belongs to a municipality in this part of Algarve.	Policies in support of the rural areas through Local Action Groups; Regional policies for the rural areas, local policies for the diffusion of ICT; Promote creative business projects; Those areas are also very sensitive to crisis periods. Nevertheless, as opportunities are lessening in the coastal areas, a certain "reinvention" of these areas may take place. The rediscovery of natural and rural areas, and the exploration of new opportunities in these areas are sustained through regional and national policies. Not so attractive in previous years, it is somehow expected that those alternative ways may now be considered in a new perspective, mainly by private investors.
1D. Land use/ dispersed growth	Coastal urban areas	Sprawl; Dispersed settlement models, high-level of consumption of natural resources and soil, real estate market, valuable landscape resources; Widespread urbanisation along the coast, diffused second-houses and abusive buildings; Over-exploitation of the territory; Excessive continuity of urban areas; big conurbation between all the villages along the coast making no difference between one and the other. This dispersed growth is growing also from the seashore to the inland. Areas of illegal constructions.	Regional, provincial and municipal planning supporting the compact city; planning tools; Lack of urban and territorial planning tools; Regional policy (PPR); Increase the proportion of compact urban fabric; planning tools to control the urbanisation process and the urban quality. Control of the illegal urbanisation. Requalification of the existing touristic areas.

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
1D. Land use/ dispersed growth	Inland urban areas	Sprawl; strong trends of agricultural soil transformation in residential settlements affecting all the municipalities placed around the metropolitan core area: strong functional attraction and dependency between urban pole and spokes; Dispersed settlement models, high-level of consumption of natural resources and soil, real estate market, valuable landscape resources; Increase of scattered settlements and urban dislocation; big conurbation between the main cities and the villages around from the metropolitan areas. Loose of the urban borders.	Regional, provincial and municipal planning supporting the compact city; Although some planning instruments for the requalification and the sustainable development started a polycentric strategy of spatial development, most of the development Programmes follows the centripetal trend of roman area; planning tools; Balance between continuous and discontinuous urban fabric and between land development and population growth. planning tools to control the urbanisation process and the urban quality
	Intermediary rural areas	Dispersed settlement models, high-level of consumption of natural resources, real estate market, valuable landscape resources; Number of successful projects of rural rehabilitation number of new economic projects, number of new jobs created per Pays; dispersed settlement, insufficient public and communal infrastructure, high-level of consumption of natural resources; dispersed growth of houses out of the urban areas, some of them illegal; Dispersed growth, the scarcity of available (and cheap) soil, some improvements in the road net and other factors (like the persistence of demand), are causing the same pressure in this rear area.	TRP's measures for the containment of urban sprawl, RRP's measures for "territory, soil, landscape, and biodiversity"; Programme for responsible planning of villages and small towns; spatial planning policies; planning tools to control the urbanisation process and the urban quality. Control of the illegal urbanisation; The Regional Territorial Plan tends to be more severe than the previous one (1991) to those questions related to land use and dispersed growth also in intermediary rural areas. The exceptions are more strict, but there are still no operative plans that are supposed to apply those directives and norms to municipal land planning.
	Rural areas with intensive agriculture	Trend of soil transformation toward a diffused and dispersed urban settlement; low density coverage of residential settlements substitutes the traditional intensive agriculture. Number of successful projects of rural rehabilitation number of new economic projects per Pays, number of new jobs created per Pays. Dispersed settlements, insufficient public and communal infrastructure, high-level of consumption of natural resources. Indiscriminate land use. dispersed growth of houses out of the urban areas, some of them illegal; Tendency to progressive abandonment of settlements in the use and Agricultural Areas with difficulty in the accessibility; Number of successful projects of rural rehabilitation number of new economic projects and new jobs created	Diffused and messy process of replacement of the agricultural settlements with industrial and service facilities construction, dynamics of industrial disposal. Programme for responsible planning of villages and small towns. spatial planning policies. Planning tools. Planning tools to control the urbanisation process and the urban quality. Control of the illegal urbanisation. process of abandonment and disposal of settlements in rural areas; Programme for responsible planning of villages and small towns. planning tools to control the urbanisation process and the urban quality

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
1E. Increase access and connections	Coastal urban areas	Traffic congestion; Number and percentage of enterprises and population with access to high speed connections, Number of projects "Numerical territories (ERIC)"; poor road and rail infrastructure network, intermediate infrastructures in largest urban centres. Traffic congestion during summer periods; Improved transport infrastructures	New Transports Integrated Regional Plan (in phase of approval) and enhancement of railways network; Regional programmes for local broadband networks, Territories in a numerical approach; Measures for the increasing of the infrastructures in accessible areas causing a larger gap with the rest of the territory (marginalised and isolated areas); Improve public transport and inter-modality; Policies for public transport infrastructure
	Rural and natural areas	Weak accessibility to some remote areas; Improved transport infrastructures (Winter Olympic games legacy); Inadequate road and rail network; insufficient internet and transport accessibility; The insufficient articulation of the road network does not fully meet mobility demands; improved transport infrastructures	Rural and natural areas are in marginalised position, the Natural Parks management Plans aren't able to optimize the accessibility from the Metropolitan Area; Policies for ICT accessibility; EU policy and Regional/national policies; regional development policies, rural development policies; Ensuring mobility by integrated infrastructures with the environment
1F. Improve quality of life	Rural and natural areas	Access to services; good global environmental conditions, weak offer of services; Existence of cooperative inter-municipal agreements; Lack of health and educational infrastructure; insufficient internet and transport accessibility, insufficient public and communal infrastructure, lack of job opportunities; Excessive distances to provision services centres; existence of cooperative agreements and neo-rural populations contributing to local economy with creative economic activities	Socio-Health Plan, services have been re-organised to improve the efficiency of the system (home-care, e-health etc.); the budget deficit is due almost exclusively to the excess of spending by the Region of Lazio Regional Health Services alone generates more than 50% of the overall deficit of the NHS. The return Plan try to resolve the problem; Reorganisation of the mountain communities; Local and Regional policies + Leader; policies for the welfare system, PP partnerships; Create areas of rural; policies for ICT accessibility and revitalization; Policies to facilitate the accessibility. Location of the equipments and services. Favour rural development. Favour the rural "communities" (inter-municipal net)
2A Access to knowledge	MEGA urban poles	Research and development investments; Important academic institutions (polytechnic and university), numerous university students, presence of national level research centres; Number of cooperation project between firms and research institutes, Annual ANR budget invested in PACA/national ANR budget, number of researcher jobs created,; HEIs, R&I centres, S&T parks; Low level of investment in R & D and insufficient integration between public sector and business needs. important academic institutions (two universities), numerous university students, presence of research centres	Financing innovation projects of enterprises with a particular attention to the green economy projects; 2nd Turin Strategic Plan for the human capital and KBE; Régional strategy for innovation, Region contract plan for development of professional training, Regional Scheme for knowledge and research; TT policies, research policies, R&D investments, policies supporting SMEs; Increase the staff employed in R & D, infrastructure development for innovation support; policies to facilitate de connection between research centres to create synergies and capitalisation of results

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
2A Access to knowledge	Coastal urban areas	Low level of synergy between regional and local development policies, research institutions, economic programmes and social and economic stakeholders, Local opportunities could be optimised; Important academic institutions (polytechnic and university), university students, research centres; lack of integration between research system and labour market, existing integrated systems are small and dispersed; Presence of university centres and excellence research centres; HEIs, R&I centres, S&T parks; Insufficient development of technology transfer mechanisms and low innovation diffusion to the productive sectors; Important academic institutions (polytechnic school and universities); little and localised presence of high tech innovation centres (renewable energy - solar- and communications)	The POR ERDF Fund supports the search for innovation. Lazio has a number of researchers and intensity of spending on research and development that put him in a leadership position in Italy, along with Lombardy. The research, however, is still supported by the public sector too. The Fund aims to increase the propensity of entrepreneurial subjects of public research; Murcia Region Strategic Plan; Measures facilitating the network connections between research and labour systems; Eu and National policies; TT policies, research policies, R&D investments, policies supporting SMEs; Improve innovation in enterprises and boost innovative ways of organizing productive work; Policies for academic institutions and technology transfer; policies to facilitate de connection between research centres to create synergies and capitalisation of results
	Inland urban areas	Research and development investments; Important academic institutions (polytechnic and university), university students, research centres; Local specialised know-how, presence of university and innovation centres, presence of high- and med-tech firms; HEIs, R&I centres, S&T parks; Insufficient development of technology transfer mechanisms and low innovation diffusion to the productive sectors; Presence of research centres numerous university students; presence of university, presence of med-tech firms	Financing innovation projects of enterprises with a particular attention to the green economy projects; Murcia Region Strategic Plan; Regional policies for innovation and technology transfer (e.g. Innovation poles and technology platforms). Regional Law 4/2006 for the regional innovation system; TT policies, research policies, R&D investments, policies supporting SMEs; Improve innovation in enterprises and boost innovative ways of organizing productive work. Policy for academic institutions and innovation centres; policies to facilitate de connection between research centres to create synergies and capitalisation of results
2B. Matching	MEGA urban poles	Industry-academia relationship, innovation centres/poles; Presence of incubators and technology transfer centres, high quality of the industrial fabric; Number of successful innovation programmes, number of created enterprises based on R&D valorisation, number of enterprises members of PRIDES; R&D investments, HEIs, R&I centres, applied research projects, S&T parks; Mismatch between demands and supplies of R & D and insufficient cooperation between public and private sectors. presence of incubators and technology, big presence of aeronautic industry and renewable energy (solar)	Implementing the Technopoles network; The POR ERDF Fund supports the search for innovation. Lazio has a number of researchers and intensity of spending on research and development that put him in a leadership position in Italy, along with Lombardy. The research, however, is still supported by the public sector too. The Fund aims to increase the propensity of entrepreneurial subjects of public research; Regional policies for innovation and technology transfer (e.g. Innovation poles and technology platforms). Regional Law 4/2006 for the regional innovation system. 2nd Turin Strategic Plan for the human capital and KBE; Regional strategy for innovation, PRIDES network, regional scheme for economic development, Regional Scheme for knowledge and research; research policies, R&D investments; Adaptation of higher education to business demand and increase private investment; policies to favour the full access of to ICT and for technology transfer. Boost innovative economic activities. Policy of innovation centres.

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
2B. Matching	Coastal urban areas	Presence of incubators, technology transfer centre, industrial fabric, I+D+i; R&D investments, HEIs, R&I centres, applied research projects, S&T parks; Mismatch between demands and supplies of R & D and insufficient cooperation between public and private sectors.—presence of research centres, technology transfer centres, universities, of scientific and technological parks; lack of innovation of the traditional economic activity (tourism). Presence of incubators and high tech research and innovation at some capital cities.	Murcia Region Strategic Plan; research policies, R&D investments; Adaptation of higher education to business demand and increase private investment –Innovation poles; policies to favour the full access of to ICT and for technology transfer. Boost innovative economic activities. Policy of innovation centres.
	Inland urban areas	Industry-academia relationship, innovation centres/poles; very weak connections between regional and local development policies, research institutions, economic programmes and social and economic stakeholders, Local opportunities could be optimised; industrial fabric; Presence of innovation centres, good industrial fabric and diffused territorialised fliers; R&D investments, HEIs, R&I centres, applied research projects, S&T parks; Presence of many technological education institutions;; presence of innovation centres, good industrial fabric and diffused territorialised fliers	Implementing the Technopoles network; The POR ERDF Fund supports the search for innovation. Lazio has a number of researchers and intensity of spending on research and development that put him in a leadership position in Italy, along with Lombardy. The research, however, is still supported by the public sector too. The Fund aims to increase the propensity of entrepreneurial subjects of public research; Industry Land Management Guidelines; Regional policies for innovation and technology transfer (e.g. Innovation poles and technology platforms). Regional Law 4/2006 for the regional innovation system; research policies, R&D investments; Regional policies for technological education institutions; policies to favour the full access of to ICT and for technology transfer. Boost innovative economic activities. Policy of innovation centres.
3A. Crisis of rural	Intermediary rural areas	Sprawl; General crisis of intensive and extensive rural areas due to the global market crisis, collapse of agricultural economy; High level landscape quality, presence of ecomuseums and other touristic assets; uncontrolled urban growth menacing rural areas; High quality landscape; high level of landscape and natural quality. Share of territory that is environmentally protected.	Regional, provincial and municipal planning supporting the compact city; The RDP Rural Development Plan has promoted policies for revitalizing the rural economy but there's a low synergy with other lines of regional programming; Regional (ROP) and local policies for SMEs; Lack of policies contrasting urban sprawl, Prevention measures for the safeguard of natural areas and socio-cultural development of rural settlements; Policy tools for the management of landscape; policies to boost small and medium enterprises based on local resources not replicable (high quality of landscape, natural products, environment)
	Rural and natural areas	abandoned remote rural areas; High level landscape quality, ecomuseums and touristic assets; Many tourism assets and high quality landscape; high level of landscape and natural quality. territory environmentally protected; spreading of urban sprawl affecting strongly the rural space and its economic activities loss of traditional and sustainable ways of producing (building); loss of the potential and the capacity of soils.	low synergy between the Rural Development Plan revitalizing the rural economy and other regional programming; policies for unions of municipalities, EU structural funds. Mancomunidades y Consorcios; policies to boost small and medium enterprises based on local resources not relocable (high quality of landscape, natural products, environment, traditional handcraft); Regional strategy, enforced by legal mechanisms concerning land use changes (very strict), are strongly orientate towards the prevention of continuing urban sprawl. However, exceptions (still considered in legislation) and the actual scenario of market forces prevalence over environmental and territorial organizational assets, can diminish the efficiency of such strategies.

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
3B. Strengthening of functional areas	Inland urban areas	Municipalities cooperation/association; Economies of Urban Functional Areas not self sustainable; economical dependency from central government; Industrial specialisation; Industrial specialisation and presence of industrial districts; regional development cooperation	regional territorial plan supporting the merging of "città effettive" (functional urban areas); Regional policies for industrial districts, innovation poles and technology platforms; Regional policies for integrated planning among unions of municipalities (RTP). Regional policies for industrial districts, innovation poles and technology platforms; regional development policies
4A. Freight supply and push areas	MEGA urban poles	Interchange and intermodal infrastructures; freight carried by road transport, problems of overlapping with the passenger's traffic in the metropolitan area; Presence of interports, transport networks (highways and regional connections), high speed railway station; Saving time (in Eurolan) generated by the construction of new train infrastructures, rate of new jobs created in non-road freight transportation; transportation and logistics nodes, environmental burdening; Big logistics hub in important ports. Presence of airport, transport networks (highways and regional connections), high speed railway station.	new Transports Integrated Regional Plan (in phase of approval) and enhancement of multimodal logistic network; Regional Plan for Mobility is only at draft stage. Scarcity of funds for important actions in public network enhancement; Regional (RTP) and national transport policies. Project for the Turin-Lyon and Rotterdam-Genoa high speed railway connections; in charge of the regional collective transport (mainly trains); transportation policies, regional development policies; Empowerment of the logistic axis Madrid-Valencia. interports, transport networks (highways and regional connections), logistic industry
	Coastal urban areas	Freight carried by road transport, problems of overlap with the passengers traffic in the shoreline road network (corridors); Concentration of freight infrastructures in metropolitan areas (ports, interports, logistic districts) yet with scarce integration and efficiency; Presence of ports and airports; transportation and logistics nodes, environmental burdening; Well connected nationally but poor external network infrastructure. presence of airport, harbour transport networks (highways and regional connections), high speed railway station	Commuting public transport services has to be enhanced, the implementation of the third metro line in Rome was funded by Central Government (Legge Obiettivo); in charge of the regional collective transport (mainly trains); Initiatives supporting multi-modal platforms in metropolitan areas and a stronger integration between the road and rail connections among main urban poles; Eu policies; transportation policies, regional development policies; Boosting of the Mediterranean corridor. interports, transport networks (highways and regional connections), logistic industry
	Inland urban areas	Interchange and intermodal infrastructures; Presence of transport networks (highways and regional connections); presence of interports, transport networks (highways and regional connections); Increase of passengers numbers in public transports connected to intermodal nodes, number of created intermodal nodes, Saving time (in Eurolan) generated by the construction of new train infrastructures, percentage of population newly served by urban public transportation; transportation and logistics nodes, environmental burdening; Well connected nationally but poor external network infrastructure; Transport networks (highways as well as regional connections), presence of interports. presence of airports, transport networks (highways and regional connections), high speed train station	New Transports Integrated Regional Plan (in phase of approval) and enhancement of multimodal logistic network; Regional (RTP) and national transport policies (Regional Airport). Transport networks (highways and regional connections); interports, transport networks (highways and regional connections), logistic industry; transportation policies, regional development policies; Development of a complete network of intermodal infrastructures. Policies for public transportation. interports, transport networks (highways and regional connections), logistic industry

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
4B. Passenger transport and push areas	MEGA urban poles	Regional railways network; freight carried by road transport, problems of overlap with the passengers traffic in the metropolitan area; efficient urban public transport; Increase of passengers numbers in public transports connected to intermodal nodes, number of created intermodal nodes, Saving time (in Eurolan) generated by the construction of new train infrastructures, percentage of population newly served by urban public transportation; efficient public transport network, parc&ride system. Efficient urban public transport (metro and bus). Good connection by high speed train. Increased volume of passengers travelling by plane (Ryanair)	New Transports Integrated Regional Plan (in phase of approval) and enhancement of railways network; Regional Plan for Mobility is only at draft stage. Scarcity of funds for important actions in public network enhancement; policies for public transport; in charge of the regional collective transport (mainly trains); regional development policies. policies to boost public transport
	Coastal urban areas	Regional railways network; overlap between the crossing flows and flows of local traffic in urbanized coastal areas; Increase of passengers numbers in public transports connected to intermodal nodes, number of created intermodal nodes, Saving time (in Eurolan) generated by the construction of new train infrastructures, percentage of population newly served by urban public transportation; Public transport between coastal areas is insufficient and inefficient. Lack of connections with inland areas; Presence of urban transport structured; efficient public transport network, parc&ride system. Inefficient urban public transport. Great volume of national and international passengers travelling by plane. Increasing number of passengers travelling by train thanks to the high speed railway. Lack of good connections in the other coastal main cities. The metro line	New Transports Integrated Regional Plan (in phase of approval) and enhancement of railways network; Regional Plan for Mobility is only at draft stage. Scarcity of funds for important actions in public network enhancement; Planning of urban metropolitan lines and reinforcement of the overall urban transport system; EU policy; regional development policies. policies to boost public transport
	Inland urban areas	Regional railways network; commuting flows mainly based on private cars in road network; congestion trends; efficient public transport network, park &ride system. Presence of trans-regional and international connections. Efficient urban public transport. Good communication from Cordoba due to the high speed railway connections. Bad connection to some cities. Small airport.	New Transports Integrated Regional Plan (in phase of approval) and enhancement of railways network; Regional Plan for Mobility is only at draft stage. Scarcity of funds for important actions in public network enhancement; urban public transport, policies for public transport; in charge of the regional collective transport (mainly trains); regional development policies. Policies for public transportation. policies to boost public transport

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
5A. Enterprises	MEGA urban poles	Internalisation of enterprises; Frequent fairs (cultural and sport), presence of technology transfer centres; Number of cooperation project between firms and research institutes, Annual ANR budget invested in PACA/national ANR budget, number of researcher jobs created,; Promotion of R & D (especially business): activities, infrastructure. Promotion of ICT as a tool to improve productivity. localised presence of technology research and transfer centres	Three-year programme for productive activities, supporting and financing projects for the internalization of SME; Strong commitment in supporting the enterprises although industrial cooperative agreements are hindered by the global crisis; Policies for internationalisation, policies for FDI attraction; Regional Strategy for Innovation; Promotion of R & D (especially business): activities, infrastructure. Promotion of ICT as a tool to improve productivity. Policies for internationalisation, policies to favour the full access of to ICT to all enterprises, policies to favour the investment in research and development
5A. Enterprises	Coastal urban areas	Low level of synergy between regional and local development policies, research institutions, economic programmes and social and economic stakeholders, Local opportunities could be optimised; Number of cooperation project between firms and research institutes, Annual ANR budget invested in PACA/national ANR budget, number of researcher jobs created, number of platform users; small isolated realities competing in the global market; Presence of Technological Institutes and European Centres of Innovative Enterprises; localised presence of technology research and transfer centres	Strong commitment in supporting the enterprises although industrial cooperative agreements are hindered by the global crisis; Regional Strategy for Innovation; Measure supporting innovation in SMEs, ICTs and international positioning of SMEs; Promote new clusters to attract creative professionals: Sustainable Housing, Audiovisual, Water Technology, Sports, Renewable Energy. policies for internationalisation, policies to favour the full access of to ICT to all enterprises, policies to favour the investment in research and development
	Inland urban areas	Internalisation of enterprises; very weak connections between regional and local development policies, research institutions, economic programmes and social and economic stakeholders, Local opportunities could be optimised; Scarce internationalisation, reduced firm capability of technology innovation and transfer Number of cooperation project between firms and research institutes, Annual ANR regional budget invested /national ANR budget, number of researcher jobs created, number of platform users; Clusters linked to traditional industries: textiles, footwear, ceramics, furniture, food and toy. Innovation/technology transfer centres. lack of policies for technology innovation	Three-year programme for productive activities, supporting and financing projects for the internalization of SMEs; Strong commitment in supporting the enterprises although industrial cooperative agreements are hindered by the global crisis; Policies for internationalisation, policies for technology innovation, innovation/technology transfer centres; Regional Strategy for Innovation; Promote new clusters to attract creative professionals: sustainable Housing, Audiovisual, Water Technology, Sports, Renewable Energy. Policies for technology innovation, policies for internationalisation, policies to favour the full access of to ICT to all enterprises, policies to favour the investment in research and development
5B. Society	Rural and natural areas	Accessibility and real use of internet; Scarce availability of broadband, networks and ICT infrastructures; Presence of digital divide; e-government; ICT access, localised presence of communication and access to internet in natural protected spaces	The Regional ICT Plan support the further development of the network and support activities to facilitate the use of internet by citizens; Policies for broadband, networks and ICT infrastructures; Build, develop and consolidate i-Government and digital citizenship, boost R & D in ICT. Policies for ICT accessibility; policies for broadband to all the citizens, networks and ICT infrastructures

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
6A. Dependence on energy, energy efficiency and gap	MEGA urban poles	High level of energy dependence, insufficient diversification of energy systems; Increasingly diffused eco-friendly practices such as car/bike-sharing, district heating, diffused bicycle paths, separate waste collection; Number of projects on energy efficiency and RE production, increase of RE production, reduction of summer and winter power peaks; energy-saving measures, use of alternative energy sources; High development of renewable energy production(solar)	The current regional energy plan is rather old (2001), in 2007 was produced by ENEA a study preparatory to the new Regional Energy Plan; Policies for the energy saving and the construction of cogeneration and district-heating infrastructures, policies for the compact and smart city; Regional Agenda 21, Programme AGIR and AGIR Plus; Policies for energy saving, green energy, renewable sources, taxes, subsidies, PP partnerships; policies for the energy saving, using renewable energy produced locally, compact city model
	Coastal urban areas	high level of energy dependence, insufficient diversification of energy systems; solar energy; Number of projects on energy efficiency and RE production, increase of RE production, reduction of summer and winter power peaks mainly in Eastern PACA; energetic dependency to traditional sources. Share of renewable energies less than 4%; energy-saving measures, use of alternative energy sources; High development of renewable energy production (wind energy)	The current regional energy plan is rather old (2001), in 2007 was produced by ENEA a study preparatory to the new Regional Energy Plan; policies for the energy saving, solar energy; Regional Agenda 21, Programme AGIR and AGIR Plus; Rationalisation of energy demand, and policies supporting renewable energies; policies for energy saving, green energy, renewable sources, taxes, subsidies, PP partnerships; policies for the energy saving, using renewable energy produced locally, compact city model
	Inland urban areas	high level of energy dependence, insufficient diversification of energy systems; solar energy; Number of projects on energy efficiency and RE production, increase of RE production, reduction of summer and winter power peaks mainly in Eastern PACA; energy-saving measures, use of alternative energy sources; Use of alternative energy sources; High development of renewable energy production (wind energy)	The current regional energy plan is rather old (2001), in 2007 was produced by ENEA a study preparatory to the new Regional Energy Plan; policies for the energy saving, solar energy; Regional Agenda 21, Programme AGIR and AGIR Plus; policies for energy saving, green energy, renewable sources, taxes, subsidies, PP partnerships; Policies for the energy saving; Regional policies for renewable resources; policies for the energy saving, using renewable energy produced locally, compact city model
	Intermediary rural areas	high level of energy dependence, insufficient diversification of energy systems; solar energy; Creation of agro-energy districts; energy-saving measures, use of alternative energy sources; High development of renewable energy production (wind energy)	The current regional energy plan is rather old (2001), in 2007 was produced by ENEA a study preparatory to the new Regional Energy Plan; policies for the energy saving, solar energy; EU, National and Regional Policies; policies for energy saving, green energy, renewable sources, taxes, subsidies, PP partnerships; policies for the energy saving, using renewable energy produced locally, compact city model

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
6A. Dependence on energy, energy efficiency and gap	Rural and natural areas	high level of energy dependence, insufficient diversification of energy systems; solar energy; Widespread presence of hydroelectric and biomass resources; Landscape protection through strict guidelines on energy policy; energy-saving measures, use of alternative energy sources	The current regional energy plan is rather old (2001), in 2007 was produced by ENEA a study preparatory to the new Regional Energy Plan; policies for the energy saving, solar energy; Regional (ROP) and local (Hill/Mountain communities, integrated plans) energy and renewable resources; Monitoring systems, civil protection, policies for environmental protection; EU, National and Regional Policies; policies for energy saving, green energy, renewable sources, taxes, subsidies, PP partnerships
7A. Protection and prevention policies	Coastal urban areas	Settlement pressure on environment, Pollution and emission risk (Civitavecchia) coastal erosion, flood risk, conflict between fishery activity and marine ecosystem insufficient prevention policies; Number of enterprises developing their environmental responsibility plan, rate of territorial superficies covered by the ARAMIS network, Number of municipalities with better risk prevision tools; Presence of monitoring system, diffused natural parks and environmental protected areas; presence of monitoring systems, civil protection, diffused natural parks and environmental protected areas; High flood risk. Drought periods.	There is a plan hydrogeological PAI and fire prevention plan; Regional Agenda 21, through the CPER and the PRIDES "Risk management and vulnerability of territories; EU, National and Regional Policies; spatial planning policies, policies for: environmental protection, natural heritage protection; Guide urban development into areas with less flooding risk
7A. Protection and prevention policies	Rural areas with intensive agriculture	Pollution of intensive agriculture; Presence of monitoring systems, civil protection, diffused natural parks and environmental protected areas; Number of enterprises developing their environmental responsibility plan, rate of territorial superficies covered by the ARAMIS network, Number of municipalities with better risk prevision tools; Presence of monitoring system, Diffused natural parks and environmental protected areas; The most relevant regional natural hazards are: coastal erosion and sea-level rise; occasional torrential rain and flooding; summer forest fires; cyclical droughts. Earthquake and tsunami menaces are also present, but on a lower risk grade than the other mentioned. Most of the natural hazards in the region are related to the region's insertion in the mediterranean climate. Irregular hydric regimes from one year to another, absence of rain and short periods of heavy rain, long summer and dry season. Those features affect strongly agricultural activities, natural vegetal coverage, as well as buildings and infrastructures. However, the losses on buildings and infrastructures are mainly due to bad and irresponsible land planning, which did not predict, or underestimate, natural hazards.	Hydrogeological plan, PAI and fire prevention plan; Monitoring systems, civil protection, policies for environmental protection; Regional Agenda 21, through the CPER and the PRIDES "Risk management and vulnerability of territories; EU, National and Regional Policies; Strategic plans for the region have always included the policies and measures related to prevent natural hazards. However, there has Always been strong difficulties on its implementation and monitoring due mainly to the lack of a master plan and the strenght of market forces, which tend to minimize the impacts of natural hazards.

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
7A. Protection and prevention policies	Intermediary rural areas	Abandonment of forest areas, landslide risk, summer fires; Number of enterprises developing their environmental responsibility plan, rate of territorial superficies covered by the ARAMIS network, Number of municipalities with better risk prevision tools; Presence ogif monitoring system, diffused natural parks and enviromental protected areas; presence of monitoring systems, civil protection,diffused natural parks and environmental protected areas; The most relevant regional natural hazards are: coastal erosion and sea-level rise; occasional torrential rain and flooding; summer forest fires; cyclical droughts. Earthquake and tsunami menaces are also present, but on a lower risk grade than the other mentioned. Most of the natural hazards in the region are related to the region's insertion in the mediterranean climate. Irregular hydric regimes from one year to another, absence of rain and short periods of heavy rain, long summer and dry season. Bad and irresponsible land planning.	Hydrogeological plan, PAI and fire prevention plan; Regional Agenda 21, throught the CPER and the PRIDES "Risk management and vulnerability of territories; EU, National and Regional Policies; Policies for risk prevention (special attention to flood hazard), monitoring systems, civil protection, policies for environmental protection; Strategic plans for the region have always included the policies and measures related to prevent natural hazards. However, there has always been strong difficulties on its implementation and monitoring due mainly to the lack of a master plan and the strenght of market forces, which tend to minimize the impacts of natural hazards.
	Rural and natural areas	abandonment of forest areas, landslide risk, summer fires; presence of parks and protected natural areas, Sites of Community importance (SCI); Presence of monitoring systems, civil protection, diffused natural parks and environmental protected areas; Rate of territorial superficies covered by the ARAMIS network, Number of municipalities with better risk prevision tools; Presence of monitoring system, diffused natural parks and environmental protected areas; presence of monitoring systems, civil protection, diffused natural parks and environmental protected areas; presence of monitoring systems, civil protection, diffused natural parks and environmental protected areas	There is a plan hydrogeological PAI and fire prevention plan; monitoring systems, civil protection, policies for environmental protection, environmental parks and protected areas; Regional Agenda 21, through the CPER and the PRIDES "Risk management and vulnerability of territories; EU, National and Regional Policies; spatial planning policies, rural policies, policies for: environmental protection , natural heritage protection, Policies for risk prevention (special attention to fire hazard) , monitoring systems, civil protection, policies for environmental protection

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
7B. Economy and natural resources	Rural areas with intensive agriculture	good level of territorial protection; difficulties in economic self sustainability of protected areas; Measurement of water savings, number of adopted water management plans (SAGE, contrats de rivière), database on biodiversity; diffusa presenza di parchi naturali e di aree naturali protette (riserve, SiC e ZPS); Population near to protected natural areas of high value; policies for environmental protection; policies for energy saving, green energy, renewable sources, policies for environmental rehabilitation, for risk prevention, policies for reconstruction and safety measures; almost 30% of the andalusian territory is under protection of any protection figure (national and natural park, natural reserve, protected landscape, Natura Net 2000); In the region, nature plays a decisive role. The most part of regional economic activity, and the "brand" Algarve, is strongly related to nature: the amenable climate, the beaches and natural areas. However, the balance is very delicate and the last 3/4 decades have been autofagic and predatorious in a way that the most valuable regional asset - this delicate balance - is nowadays seriously menaced. Loss of agricultural production due to urban sprawl and low profits. Touristic activities with strong relation to nature (eco tourism, bird watching, cycle tourism, and other products).	The protected areas management has been marked by conflicts with local authorities and non-economic sustainability. from August 2010 all the Regional Parks are under the management of a commissioner. Outside the protected areas a culture of consumption of natural resources prevail; Regional Agenda 21, Programme AGIR and AGIR Plus; valorizzazione e promozione delle identità culturali e delle risorse paesaggistico-ambientali per fini turistici; Connexion of the areas of high environmental and territorial value; monitoring systems, civil protection, policies for environmental protection; policies for sustainable and slow tourism based on natural local resources untransferable and local traditional products; The region has a huge surface included in the Natura 2000 Net, as well as two large natural parks, whose aim was mainly to protect those areas, its ecosystems and habitats, from the rapid soil consumption. However, the management of those areas have not been implemented, and the lack of plans of management do not allow the implementation of sustainable and balanced activities in those areas. As a result, there is more a static vision than a proactiv and dynamic vision to those areas, which can compromise them in a medium and long-term.
	Intermediary rural areas	high level of protection of these territories; difficulties in economic self sustainability of protected areas; Diffused natural parks, protected areas, special areas according to Rete Natura (SPA), Sites of Community importance (SCI); Measurement of water savings, number of adopted water management plans, number of days/year of air pollution, database on biodiversity; sustainable use of natural resources; Green economy; Population lives near to protected natural areas of high value—policies for environmental protection; policies for energy saving, green energy, renewable sources, policies for environmental rehabilitation, for risk prevention, policies for reconstruction and safety measures.	The protected areas management in Lazio has been marked by conflicts with local authorities and non-economic sustainability. From August 2010 all the Regional Parks are under the management of a commissioner. Outside the protected areas a culture of consumption of natural resources prevail; Regional rural plan (RRP), Regional (ROP) and local (Hill/Mountain communities, integrated plans) energy and sustainability initiatives; Regional Agenda 21, Programme AGIR and AGIR Plus; policies for environmental protection, policies for natural heritage protection, rural policies, policies for energy saving, green energy, renewable sources; Connexion of the areas of high environmental and territorial value.—monitoring systems, civil protection, policies for environmental protection

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
7B. Economy and natural resources	Rural and natural areas	protected areas, natural parks, sites of Community importance, etc.; natural parks, protected areas, special protected areas according to Rete Natura (SPA), Sites of Community importance (SCI); Diffused natural parks, protected areas, special areas according to Rete Natura (SPA), Sites of Community importance (SCI); Land area occupied by new protected natural areas, database on biodiversity; widespread natural parks and natural protected areas (reserves, SIC e ZPS); Development of protected areas, natural parks and natural areas; sustainable use of natural resources, Green economy. Population lives near to protected natural areas of high value.—policies for environmental protection; policies for energy saving, green energy, renewable sources, policies for environmental rehabilitation, for risk prevention, policies for reconstruction and safety measures	The Program for regional system of protected areas and of Natura 2000 sites, three-years programmes for the management of regional parks and Natura 2000 sites; Regional rural plan, Regional and local initiatives for energy and sustainability; Regional rural plan (RRP), Regional (ROP) and local (Hill/Mountain communities, integrated plans) energy and sustainability initiatives; Regional Agenda 21, Programme AGIR and AGIR Plus; valorisation and promotion of cultural identities end landscape-natural resources for tourism; EU, National and Regional Policies - LIFE FUND; policies for environmental protection, policies for natural heritage protection, rural policies, policies for energy saving, green energy, renewable sources; Connexion of the areas of high environmental and territorial value. Monitoring systems, civil protection, policies for environmental protection
8A. Economy and cultural resources	MEGA urban poles	Strong potentialities to enhance the economy based on cultural heritage; Creative industries, policies for cultural and creative economy, contemporary art events, creative class, tourism facilities; development and promotion of cultural heritage potential for tourism; Cultural industry accounts between 2,5%-3% of GDP. presence of ecomuseums, art expositions, festivals, cultural heritage, high quality of cultural and patrimonial heritage and landscape	The regional policy of GAC (Great Cultural Attracting Poles) was an attempt to enhance some cultural poles placed in the regional Provinces. The effectiveness of these policies is lower than they expected; Policies for cultural and creative economy, policies for contemporary art; policies for cultural heritage protection; Development of cultural events. policies for cultural and creative economy, policies for contemporary art
	Coastal urban areas	Lazio region has a high variety of polycentric structure of cultural site inside and around urban centres; great architectural and cultural heritage in inland and coastal sites; development and promotion of cultural heritage potential for tourism; Short implication of the society in the management of the cultural heritage - coasts conditions, hydro-geological conditions, policies for the management of landscape, Presence of tourism facilities	The regional policy of GAC (Great Cultural Attracting Poles) was an attempt to enhance some cultural poles placed in the regional Provinces. The effectiveness of these policies is lower than they expected; safeguard, valorisation and fruition of architectural goods and promotion of cultural activities increasing the regional attractiveness and reinforcing the social cohesion and the quality of life; policies for cultural heritage protection; Favour cultural consumption growth in the population.— Fisheries Local Action Groups. Local policies for tourism

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
8A. Economy and cultural resources	Inland urban areas	There are several cultural clusters along the coastal system that could represent an engine for the regional development; Creative industries (cinema), frequent cultural events, expositions and events, high-quality university system, creative class, tourism facilities; High level cultural heritage quality (sacri monti, farmsteads), presence of ecomuseums, organisation of art expositions, festivals etc; development and promotion of cultural heritage. Good potential for tourism; Short implication of the society in the management of the cultural heritage. presence of ecomuseums, art expositions, festivals, cultural heritage, high quality of cultural and patrimonial heritage and landscape. Industries, cultural economy, contemporary art events, tourism facilities	The regional policy of GAC (Great Cultural Attracting Poles) was an attempt to enhance some cultural poles placed in the regional Provinces. The effectiveness of these policies is lower than they expected.; creative industries, policies for cultural and create economy, contemporary art events, creative class , tourism facilities; Regional and local initiatives for tourism; policies for cultural heritage protection; Cultural routes related to heritage, landscape, natural sites, food, etc. policies for cultural and creative economy, policies for contemporary art. Policies for cultural economy and creative economy
9A. Sustainability of regional economic resources	MEGA urban poles	Small-medium enterprises especially in manufacturing, tertiary sector; Economy of third and fourth sector, Tourism, is the best performing due to the huge cultural heritage; Long-term industrial know-how, renowned automotive industry and metal-mechanic industry; sectoral structure of economy, innovations (smart and green economy), creative milieu; High unemployment in construction and services, and also in the feminine collective. long-term industrial know-how, aeronautic industry	Agreement with all relevant socio-economic organisations, public funding, facilitating the access to the credit; much still needs to be done for a key area as tourism. The development of this sector is in fact still below their real potential. There is still no systematic organization of the offer, a comprehensive strategy of intervention that starts from an overview, to improve the supply of the entire territory, together with the attractiveness of Rome; Regional measures for the industrial reconversion and restructuring (ROP); Turin 2nd SP's measures for KBE; regional development policies, R&D investments, policies supporting SMEs, employment policies, LLL policies; Formation and retraining; promotion and awareness of the entrepreneurial culture; economic support to the self-employment; measures of conciliation of the professional life with the familiar one, especially for women. policies for industrial diversification and industrial innovation and modernisation
	Coastal urban areas	Tertiary sector, tourism; Widespread presence of SMEs specialised in agro-food and touristic industries that are not part of networks and do not reach critical mass; Larger concentration of economic activities and employment; sectoral structure of economy, innovations (smart and green economy), creative milieu; High unemployment in construction and services, and also in the feminine collective. Need of diversification of the touristic industry to break the big dependence	Agreement with all relevant socio-economic organisations, public funding, facilitating the access to the credit; Inclusive policies , support to the human capital and the creation of inter-regional and trans-national networks exchanging good practices and promoting R&D and innovation. National regional policies; regional development policies, R&D investments, policies supporting SMEs, employment policies, LLL policies; formation and retraining; promotion and awareness of the entrepreneurial culture; economic support to the self-employment; measures of conciliation of the professional life with the familiar one, especially for women. policies of requalification of traditional touristic areas. Policies to boost and alternative model of coastal tourism more diverse and not only based in the "sun and beach" model which is aggressive proved to the territory

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
9A. Sustainability of regional economic resources	Inland urban areas	Small-medium enterprises especially manufacturing; Presence of important industrial districts (textile, jewellery, taps and valves, auto, cooling technologies, wine, agro-industries, wood); sectoral structure of economy, innovations, creative milieu; High unemployment in industry, elder and women. presence of medium industrial districts ( jewellery, wine, olive oil, agro-industries)	Agreement with all relevant socio-economic organisations, public funding, facilitating the access to the credit; Regional measures for the industrial reconversion and restructuring (ROP); Regional and local measures for SME districts; regional development policies, R&D investments, policies supporting SMEs, employment policies, LLL policies; Employment in the social assistance sector, increase in the average size of firms policies for industrial diversification and industrial innovation and modernisation
10A Policy capacity of public administration	-		
10B Participation and subsidiarity	Coastal urban areas	scarso coordinamento tra i vari enti pubblici ai diversi livelli, poca trasparenza e una assenza quasi totale dei processi di partecipazione; Spread of democratic participation in the PA (bottom up approach); Law of Planning and Landscape Protection that recognizes the need of promoting the processes of cooperation, coordination and public participation; Need to promote and favour a higher culture of participation in all the decision processes; At a region level, there are many problems related to the articulation of sector interventions, with major reflects on the territorial implementing of policies. Superposition of institutional competences and the share of responsibilities in interventions are common, due to the absence of a regional leadership. This causes unsurpassable inefficiencies. In order to coordinate some of these shared responsibilities and interventions, there are regional counsels and informal organs, cooperation networks and associations that try, according to their levels, surpass those inconsistencies on regional actuation.	Non si rilevano politiche volte a integrare nei processi di governance processi di partecipazione democratica; EU, National and Regional Policies; Boost the modernisation of traditional governments, mechanisms of transparency and information to the citizens; initiatives to boost the participation in making decisions processes. Policies to boost a participation culture; Central, regional and local administrations, most of the times, share the same responsibilities and create areas of multiple competences. Theoretically, this constringiments do not exist, but the practice shows them frequently. Constant redefinitions and programs to cut down organizational and administrative constraints aim to surpass this problem. Recent tendencies to a more centralized action, at some level, both with tendencies to decentralize other actions are expected to lead to a more difficult leadership and governance.
	Rural and natural areas	Isolation and fragmentation can in most cases to create a marginalisation process, participation to citizens and new; Diffused associative practices of inter-urban management forms the organization is crucial for these territories; Spread of democratic participation in the PA (bottom up approach); Diffuse administrative management; Need to promote and favour a higher culture of participation in all the decision processes	Policies to support the population in rural systems are promoted by the RDP Rural Development Program; Re-organisation of the Mountain Communities, policies for the e-government; EU, National and Regional Policies; Initiatives for administrative management; administrative associative management among municipalities

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
11A Landscape management	Coastal urban areas	The increasing of the urbanisation process threatens the environmental and landscape value of the regional coastal areas; Number of urbanism documents with specific orientations on landscape preservation; PPR strictly regulates the management and land use; sustainable tourism and preservation of cultural landscape—urban landscape; urban planning tools, regional planning tools, high-level of natural landscape (localised parts of the coast usually being part of protected areas). High-level landscape	A Regional Landscape Management Plan was issued by Lazio Region. However, this plan met much resistances as it has limited the use of land in landscape protection and created conflicts with the economic expectations of citizens and municipalities; N/A; Regional Policy (PPR); spatial planning policies, rural development policies, policies for: environmental protection, natural and cultural heritage protection—Piano di assetto naturalistico; policies for requalification, management and valorisation of the landscape. Real implementation of the CEP. Policies for the protection of landscape
	Rural areas with intensive agriculture	High-level agricultural landscape quality, presence of ecomuseums; Number of urbanism documents with specific orientations on landscape preservation; High landscape and architectorial values linked with the land use and the production of high-quality agro-food products; PPR strictly regulates the management and land use; multifunctional agriculture, rural landscape quality; Problems of economic profitability and decline of agricultural assets.—policies for the management of landscape, policies for landscape maintenance, high-level agricultural landscape quality. High-level agricultural landscape quality	Regional policies for the valorisation of the landscape (RLP); Programme for responsible planning of villages and small towns; better waste management, environment requalification and restoration, strengthening of the ecologic network and territorial specificities; Regional Policy (PPR); spatial planning policies, rural development policies, policies for: environmental protection, natural and cultural heritage protection; Preserve and enhance the diversity and richness of its landscapes over a period of rapid social and economic change - Piano di assetto naturalistico; policies for requalification, management and valorisation of the landscape. Real implementation of the CEP. Policies for the valorisation of landscape
	Intermediary rural areas	High-level agricultural landscape quality; High-level rural landscape quality (wine districts), presence of ecomuseums; Number of urbanism documents (PLU, SCOT) with specific orientations on landscape preservation (not mentioned in the PACA PO); High landscape and architecture values linked with the land use and the production of high-quality agro-food products and diffused touristic facilities; PPR strictly regulates the management and land use; sustainable tourism, multifunctional agriculture; Currently is supporting urban pressure.—policies for the management of landscape, policies for landscape maintenance, high-level rural landscape quality (wine and olive districts). High-level rural landscape quality (wine districts)	Policies for the valorisation of the landscape, agricultural landscape quality; Regional policies for the valorisation of the landscape (RLP); Programme for responsible planning of villages and small towns; better waste management, environment requalification and restoration, strengthening of the ecologic network and territorial specificities; Regional Policy (PPR); spatial planning policies, rural development policies, policies for: environmental protection, natural and cultural heritage protection; Landscape is directly linked as determinant criteria of territorial and urban planning - Piano di assetto naturalistico. Policies for requalification, management and valorisation of the landscape. Real implementation of the CEP. Policies for the valorisation of landscape

Challenges	Territories	Factors	Policies
11A Landscape management	Rural and natural areas	Quality of landscape; Spaces protected by Law. Mountain and riversides landscapes. Ecomuseum; High-level mountain landscape quality (see: lake districts and small villages), presence of ecomuseums; Number of urbanism documents with specific orientations on landscape preservation; High landscape and architecture values linked with the land use and the production of high-quality agro-food products and diffused touristic facilities; PPR strictly regulates the management and land use; natural heritage preservation, rural landscape quality; Forest use of the territory, fire risk.—policies for the management of landscape, policies for landscape maintenance, high-level mountain landscape. High-level mountain landscape	Regional Landscape Territorial Plan, protection and enhancement of landscapes; policies for the valorisation of the landscape, rural landscape quality. Plan de Dinamización Turística y Plan Director de Infraestructuras; Policies for the protection and valorisation of the landscape (RLP); Programme for responsible planning of villages and small towns; better waste management, environment requalification and restoration, strengthening of the ecologic network and territorial specificities; Regional Policy (PPR); spatial planning policies, rural development policies, policies for environmental protection, natural and cultural heritage protection; Visual Plan, which has allowed citizens to express their preferences about landscapes - Piano di assetto naturalistico; policies for requalification, management and valorisation of the landscape. Real implementation of the CEP. Policies for the protection of landscape

## 6. THE VALIDATION PROCESS

### 6.1. Rationale and state of the art of the validation procedure

In order to test the consistency of the OTREMED competitive model with the one characterising the wider MED space, the MED Regions that are not partners in the OTREMED project have been asked for participating to the validation of the preliminary results of the phase 4.1 of the project<sup>28</sup>.

More specifically, they were asked to fill a questionnaire (see Annex II) in, expressing their opinions and comments on the following results: i) the territorial articulation of the MED space; ii) the territorialised reading of the key development challenges; iii) the competitive territorial factors; iv) the Mediterranean model.

Unfortunately, in order to respect the dead line of the project, this validation process had to start when the collecting of the contributions of the OTREMED regions was not ended yet. It followed that the preliminary results submitted to the MED regions for validation (see Annex II) represented a synthesis of the replies of 11 of the total 13 partners of the OTREMED project<sup>29</sup>. The regions involved in the validation process are listed in the table that follows (Table 10).

*Table 10 – State of the art of the validation process*

Nation	Region	Participating
Cyprus	Cyprus	
Greece	Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	X
	Attiki	X
	Dytiki Makedonia	X
	Ionia Nisia	X
	Ipeiros	X
	Kentriki Makedonia	X
	Kriti	X
	Notio Aigaio	X
	Peloponnisos	X
	Stereia Ellada	X
	Thessalia	X
Voreio Aigaio	X	
France	Corse	
	Languedoc-Roussillon	
	Rhône-Alpes	

<sup>28</sup> The adoption of a validation process of the preliminary results was suggested during the second meeting of the OTREMED Board of Experts (Rome, October 2011).

<sup>29</sup> When the validation process started the missing replies were those of Andalusia and Algarve. Later both replies arrived and they were thus considered in the chapter of this report that summarises the results of the survey with the OTREMED regions (chapter 5).

Nation	Region	Participating
Italy	Basilicata	
	Calabria	X
	Campania	X
	Friuli-Venezia Giulia	
	Liguria	
	Lombardy	
	Marche	
	Molise	X
	Puglia	X
	Tuscany	
	Umbria	X
	Veneto	
Malta	Malta	X
Portugal	Alentejo	
Spain	Aragon	
	Balearic islands	X
	Catalonia	
	Ceuta	
	Melilla	
United-Kingdom	Gibraltar	

As we can see, representatives of the Italian (5), Spanish (1), Maltese (1) and Greek (12)<sup>30</sup> Regions participated to the validation process<sup>31</sup>.

## 6.2. The territorial articulation of the MED space

Replies of non OTREMED regions definitively confirmed the idea that the MED space can be hardly reduced to a limited and well defined mix of territorial typologies. Rather, every MED region seems to be characterised by its own mix of territorial types.

For instance, Attiki Region presents a strong urban characterisation since it is occupied in the 24% of its territory by MEGA urban poles, in the 23% by coastal urban areas, and in the 18% by inland urban areas. Although deprived of MEGA poles also the regions Apulia, North Aegean and Ionia Nisia are occupied by vast urbanised areas (respectively 55%, 39%, and 37%). On the other hand, most of the land area in the regions Ipeiros (51%), Campania (51%), Molise (52%), Dytiki Makedonia (48%), and Calabria (46%) is occupied by rural and natural areas. In Thessalia the 78% of the regional territory is equally distributed among rural areas with

<sup>30</sup> Actually, replies of the Greek regions were all provided by representatives of the University of Patras.

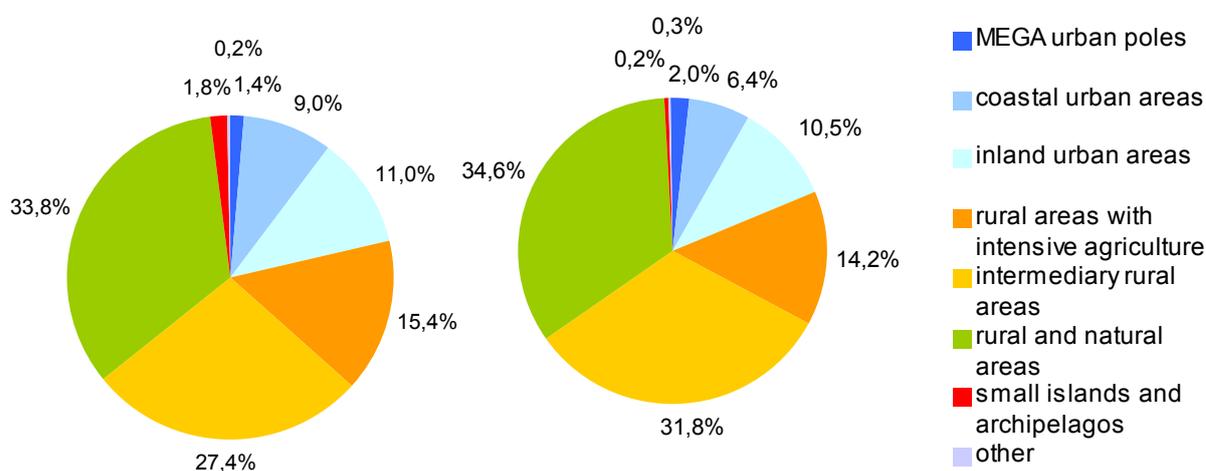
<sup>31</sup> Although replies of Balearic islands and Malta arrived when the survey was ended, their replies have been considered in this updated version of the final report submitted to OTREMED partners on January 2012.

intensive agriculture, intermediary rural areas and natural areas. Intermediary rural areas in Umbria account for the 40% in Calabria for the 32%.

Finally, relevant regional shares of small island and archipelagos are concentrated in Balearic Islands (100%), Malta (22% corresponding to the province of Gozo and Comino) and Greek regions of Notio Aigaio (28%), Voreio Aigaio (11%), Ionia Nisia (8%), Attiki (6%).

The territorial articulation of the Mediterranean suggested by the replies of the 19 non-OTREMED regions participating to the survey (see Graph 2; figure on the left) was then used to refine the territorial characterisation of OTREMED regions previously commented (see Graph 1) and to obtain a more realistic representation of the territorial articulation of the whole MED space (see Graph 2; figure on the right).

Graph 2 – The territorial articulation of the surveyed non-OTREMED regions (right) and the resulting articulation of the MED space formed by OTREMED partners and non-OTREMED regions (left)



As a result, the shares of MEGA urban poles, inland urban areas, and rural and natural areas remained almost the same (variations are lower than +/- 1%) whereas the shares of coastal urban areas varied of +2.6%, rural areas with intensive agriculture varied of +1.2%, intermediary rural areas varied of -4.4%, small islands and archipelagos varied of +1.6%.

In any case, the territorial representation did not change greatly and most of the non-OTREMED regions recognised that the preliminary articulation emerged from the analysis of the OTREMED regions (Graph 1) described quite well their regional realities too.

They also expressed some interesting general comments. For instance, the representatives of Campania suggested that:

*Specific attention should be paid to the territorial typology representing 'neglected' and 'injured' territories or, in other words, territories that lost their identity (whether they once had one) and need to be 'recomposed' and 'restored'. In these non-territories, where development processes are*

*unsustainable, restoration, requalification and local development measures (for instance supporting land-art projects) are needed urgently.*

Finally, representatives of Balearic Islands and Malta stressed the importance of considering the specific conditions of small islands and archipelagos.

### **6.3. The territorialised reading of the key development challenges**

As it was predictable, also the territorialised reading of the key development challenges provoked several comments among the respondents. Evidently, this is a consequence of the fact every MED region present a specific mix of territorial typologies characterised by specific development issues and potentials.

In particular, Greek regions suggested to modify the OTREMED model posing more emphasis on Small islands and archipelagos (especially according to the following development topics: wealth, and increase access and connections), MEGA urban poles (according to society, dependence on energy, energy efficiency and gap, and economy and cultural resources), and Rural areas with intensive agriculture (land use/ dispersed growth, and policy capacity of public administration). On the other hand, it considered overestimated the importance of Coastal urban areas and Inland urban areas. Apulia too claimed for a greater attention to small islands and archipelagos, which are strategic (in the Apulia view) respect to almost all the Mediterranean development topics, as well as to rural areas with intensive agriculture, intermediary rural areas, inland urban areas (all strategic in order to cope with the issues of: wealth, land use/ dispersed growth, improve quality of life, protection and prevention policies, sustainability of regional economic resources, policy capacity of public administration, and participation and subsidiary). In Calabria representation, rural and natural areas have to be better evaluated above all with respect to the topics of: property development, wealth, land use/ dispersed growth, matching , crisis of rural, economy and natural resources, protection and prevention policies, sustainability of regional economic resources, policy capacity of public administration, and participation and subsidiary. On another hand, both Calabria and Umbria considered MEGA poles were overestimated in OTREMED model. In the case of Umbria, in particular, greater attention should be paid to rural areas with intensive agriculture and intermediary rural areas.

Summarising we might say that respect to the OTREMED model, the competitive model of the MED space relies to a greater extent on the rural typologies (above all rural areas with intensive agriculture), and small islands and archipelagos, and to a less extent on urban areas (mainly coastal areas and MEGA poles). As we have already mentioned, this result reflected the different territorial articulation of non-OTREMED regions. However, as far as we consider the frequencies of replies according to the development topics rather than according to the territorial typologies, the resulting framework is much more similar to the OTREMED one. The most evident differences regard the fact that the survey with OTREMED partners underestimated of the challenges wealth, policy capacity of public administration, participation and subsidiary, land use/ dispersed growth, and enterprises; whereas it overestimated the challenge matching.

#### 6.4. The competitive territorial factors

As to the competitive territorial factors in the MED space, almost all the respondents felt comfortable with the preliminary list of factors they were asked to validate. Yet, they agreed with their territorialisation (i.e. with the identification of the territories where the factors are more likely to be localised) just partly. Representatives of Regions Umbria and Calabria, in particular, proposed the modifications reported in the table that follows (Table 11).

*Table 11 – Modifications (italic text) suggested to the preliminary list of OTREMED territorialised competitive factors via the validation procedure*

Competitive territorial factors (draft)	Related emerging territories
Residents' needs and social commitment (civicness)	Coastal urban areas, Inland urban areas, <i>Intermediary rural areas, Rural areas with intensive agriculture</i>
Attractiveness and internationalisation (high speed connections, fairs and events)	Inland urban areas, MEGA urban poles, <i>Rural and natural areas</i>
Job opportunities/ labour market (new jobs, employment, young/female unemployment)	MEGA urban poles, <i>Inland urban areas, Rural and natural areas</i>
Soil consumption and urban sprawl	Coastal urban areas, <i>Inland urban areas</i>
Tourism facilities and activities	Coastal urban areas, <i>Inland urban areas, Intermediary rural areas, Rural areas with intensive agriculture, Rural and natural areas, Small islands and archipelagos</i>
Policy tools and control/prevention routines	Coastal urban areas, Intermediary rural areas, Rural and natural areas
Natural resources consumption	Coastal urban areas, <i>Rural areas with intensive agriculture</i>
Landscape quality	<i>Coastal urban areas, Inland urban areas, Intermediary rural areas, Rural areas with intensive agriculture, Rural and natural areas, Small islands and archipelagos</i>
Transport network	Coastal urban areas, <i>Inland urban areas, Rural areas with intensive agriculture</i>
Public sector services /facilities	MEGA urban poles, <b>Inland urban areas</b>
Higher Education Institutions, Science & Technology centres	MEGA urban poles, Inland urban areas
Firm-academia relationships	MEGA urban poles, Inland urban areas, <b>Rural and natural areas</b>
Industrial innovation, spin-offs and spillover	MEGA urban poles, Coastal urban areas, Inland urban areas
Industrial fabric/ local economic base	Coastal urban areas, Inland urban areas
Environment quality/risks (pollution, erosion, fire, landslide)	Coastal urban areas, Rural and natural areas, <b>Inland urban areas</b>
Public government effectiveness, efficiency	MEGA urban poles, Coastal urban areas, Rural and natural areas, <b>Small islands and archipelagos</b>
Energy performances (self-sufficiency, diversification, renewable, green economy)	<b>Coastal urban areas, Inland urban areas, Rural and natural areas</b>

Summarising, the respondents asked for a larger recognition of the importance of rural areas and inland urban areas as places of concentration of territorial competitive factors. Indeed, the

preliminary list of OTREMED territorialised competitive factors attributed an overbalanced centrality to MEGA and coastal areas.

Certainly, these territorial typologies can play an important role in moulding the competitiveness and the identity of the Mediterranean regions. For instance, respondents from Campania region underlined the importance of coastal areas with historic settlements and high-quality landscape in characterising the Mediterranean specificity. At the same time, they denounced the risks affecting most of these territories, menaced by illegal building, urban sprawl and second houses:

*Consistent with the integrity and complexity of human activities, Mediterranean regions have to look at the quality of the natural and build environment in order to point out the fundamental assets that represent their common identity and that can be creatively used in order to produce a new shared Mediterraneanity (Campania Region).*

However, other territorial typologies play an important role too. According to the validation process, Intermediary rural areas and Rural areas with intensive agriculture, in particular, host important competitive assets in terms of: Residents' needs and social commitment, Tourism facilities and activities, and Landscape quality. The latter also host important competitive assets in terms of: Natural resources consumption and Transport network. Rural and natural areas host important competitive assets in terms of: Attractiveness and internationalisation, Job opportunities/ labour market, Tourism facilities and activities, Landscape quality, Firm-academia relationships, and Energy performances. Inland urban areas host important competitive assets in terms of: Job opportunities/ labour market, Soil consumption and urban sprawl, Tourism facilities and activities, Landscape quality, Transport network, Public sector services /facilities, Environment quality/risks, and Energy performances.

The respondents gave also an important contribution in highlighting the importance of the development issues Landscape quality and Energy performances in almost all the Mediterranean territory.

### **6.5. The Mediterranean model**

Although MED regions suggested changes according to both the articulation and the territorial reading of challenges and factors, at the end they agreed with the general features of the MED competitive model, which were elaborated by the OTREMED Regions. To say it differently, all the representatives of MED Regions participating to the validation procedure subscribed the general model reported in the text of the questionnaire they received (see Annex II).

As a result, an exact copy of this model - except for the modifications in the meanwhile determined by the late replies (i.e. replies arrived after the validation process started) by either OTREMED or MED Regions - is reported and commented in the final section of the next chapter.

However, MED respondents also provided some interesting comments which were taken into consideration in the drawing down of the final list of the competitive factors. For instance,

according to Regione Campania, an important feature of the Mediterranean model is the coexistence of economic and settlement models (as in the case of urban and peri-urban agriculture) and policentricity. Certainly, at present time, these features are usually poorly valorised (for instance, areas located 20-30-40 kilometres far from the coasts are often marginalised and isolated). But for the future, they would turn into the main backbone of the competitive advantage of the MED space. The creation of ecological and natural corridors connecting coastal and inland territories, in particular, would play a key role in distributing the residential burden and enabling more sustainable development models.

## 7. COMPETITIVE TERRITORIAL FACTORS IN THE MED SPACE

### 7.1. From the questionnaires to the identification of the territorial factors

In this chapter the territorial factors and policies that emerged from the survey with OTREMED partners (see Table 9) have been qualitatively reduced to a shorter set of competitive factors and policies. Then, they have been put in relation with the key (and additional) development topics/issues identified by Region Lazio (reported in this report in Tables 2 and 3).

As a preliminary step, the factors and the policies that were not understandable were excluded. This is the case of the factor “platform users” mentioned with regard to the topic Enterprises in Coastal urban areas.

Then, the remaining factors were re-classified according to wider homogeneous categories. In doing that we decided not to distinguish between factors representing weaknesses/ threats and factors representing strengths/ opportunities. Rather, we checked for the general ‘semantic field’ of the mentioned factors and policies.

For instance, the competitive factors referring to either the presence or the absence of regional policies for the preservation of the landscape and the natural environment, planning tools for the management of water resources, tools of risk prevision, measures of rural rehabilitation, plans for the regional energy system, regional monitoring systems, and services of civil protection were all classified as “Planning tools”. While the factors referring to universities and other higher education institutions, research centres, innovation centres, science and technology parks, incubators, innovation poles etc. were classified as “Research system”.

Nevertheless, in order not to lose the details of the collected information in the table that summarises the competitive factors and policies we kept track of the related/corresponding sub-factors and sub-policies. Moreover, for each factor and policy we also quantify (on the basis of the frequencies of replies) to what extent it was associated to a specific type of territory.

To make an example, OTREMED partners mentioned the containment of sprawl processes and the battle against uncontrolled urban growth in intermediary rural areas as two relevant competitive conditions in order to cope with the MED challenge Crisis of the rural. Yet, the containment of urbanisation pressure in intermediary rural areas is also mentioned as a relevant requisite to cope with challenge Landscape management. As a result, we might say that the factor “urban sprawl” was mentioned three times (frequency: 3) with reference to the territorial type of intermediary rural areas. As to the other territories, the “urban sprawl” factor was recognised as a strategic asset: in coastal urban areas coping with the challenges Development and population distribution (frequency: 1), Property development (2), Land use/ dispersed growth (4), Protection and prevention policies (1), Landscape management (1); in Inland urban areas and Rural areas with intensive agriculture coping with Land use/ dispersed growth (frequencies: 6 and 2 respectively). The same procedure was adopted in reclassifying the territorial policies.

The results of the reclassification of the factors and policies are reported in Tables 12 and 13.

Table 12 – The competitive territorial factors in the MED space

Factors	Sub-factors	MEGA urban poles	Coastal urban areas	Inland urban areas	Rural areas with intensive agriculture	Intermediary rural areas	Rural and natural areas	tot frequencies
Planning tools	presence or absence of planning tools (landscape and water and environment preservation, risk prevision, rural rehabilitation, energy) / monitoring systems / civil protection	1	14	0	10	16	17	58
Research system	university / research institutions / higher education institutions / innovation centres / science and technology parks / incubators	12	15	14	0	0	0	41
Environmental protected areas	natural parks / environmental protected areas / sites of EC interest	0	3	0	5	7	19	34
Landscape resources	landscape quality and biodiversity	1	3	3	6	9	11	33
Transport infrastructures	good transport infrastructures (ports, airports, logistic hubs, transport networks) / good transport connections	6	9	13	0	0	2	30
Urban sprawl	sprawl/land use / soil consumption/ continuous conurbations / Dispersed settlement models	0	9	6	4	6	3	28
Industrial know-how	local know how / traditional industries/ local products and production chains (textile, footwear, ceramics, furniture, food, toy, jewellery, taps and valves, auto, cooling technologies, wine, wood) / creative milieu	4	3	12	2	5	1	27
Cooperative agreements	cooperative projects and programmes / cooperative agreements / industry-university relationships	9	10	7	1	0	0	27
Regional economy	competitive industrial fabric / competitive tertiary fabric / new jobs / new activities	11	5	6	1	0	0	23
Transport system	inefficient transport system (congestion, bottlenecks, environmental burdening, scarce infrastructures and services, lack of connections)	3	12	5	0	1	1	22
Green economy	green behaviours / green building / green economy /sustainable practices / environmental corporate responsibility	6	4	0	1	6	4	21
Renewable energies	energy sources (solar , wind, water, biomass) / Renewable energy production	4	4	5	0	4	4	21
Cultural heritage	cultural heritage, sites, monuments, events, eco-museums	6	2	7	1	2	3	21
Public services	poor public services (scarce health and education infrastructures / low accessibility / divide / no e-government)	1	0	0	2	0	17	20
Market conditions	scarce job opportunities/ unemployment	2	4	6	1	0	4	17
Tourism facilities	restaurants and hotels / tourism facilities and services	3	3	2	2	3	3	16
Accessibility	accessibility to fast connections (high-speed railway, low-cost air connections, ICT broadband and services)	7	3	3	0	0	3	16
Demographic dynamism	aging population / depopulation / shrinking young people	3	1	5	0	0	6	15

Factors	Sub-factors	MEGA urban poles	Coastal urban areas	Inland urban areas	Rural areas with intensive agriculture	Intermediary rural areas	Rural and natural areas	tot.frequencies
Rural development	neo-rural practices / rural development / multifunctional agriculture / agro-industrial	0	0	1	7	4	2	14
Governance system	low cooperation / scarce governance / scarce optimisation / functional conflicts	0	5	6	0	0	3	14
Settlement model	high concentration/ density of settlements and population / Over-exploitation of the territory	1	8	1	2	1	0	13
Second-houses	tourism-houses / second-houses / vacancy-houses / empty houses	0	12	0	0	0	0	12
R&D investments	lack of R&D investments / presence of R&D investments	7	2	3	0	0	0	12
Urban mobility	efficient urban public transport services / cycling routes / park & ride system	6	3	3	0	0	0	12
Energy market	energy dependence / poor energy diversification	2	2	2	0	3	2	11
Human and environment risks	coastal risk / erosion risk / flood risk / drought risk	0	3	1	1	3	3	11
Human capital	students / researchers / creative class	4	2	4	0	0	0	10
Innovation difficulties	poor technology transfer / low innovation / no critical mass	0	8	2	0	0	0	10
Socio-economic stakeholders	social and economic stakeholders / economic programmes	0	4	4	1	0	0	9
Core areas and regions	polarisation of functions in metropolitan areas and in a reduced number of centres / commuting flows	1	3	2	0	0	1	7
Fairs and expositions	expositions (art, industrial)	2	0	4	0	0	1	7
Creative industries	cultural industries / creative industries	3	0	3	0	0	1	7
Freight transport	poor multimodal freight transport / poor integrated freight transport	3	2	1	0	0	0	6
Internationalisation	internationalisation of firms and industries / attractiveness of international flows	2	1	3	0	0	0	6
Innovation capability	innovative economy / innovative projects / innovative start-ups / smart economy	4	1	1	0	0	0	6
Consumption of natural resources	high consumption of natural resources	0	1	1	3	1	0	6
Agriculture sector	crisis of agriculture / abandonment of forest and rural activities	0	0	0	4	1	1	6
Seasonal trends	seasonal traffic congestion/ seasonal energy power peaks / seasonal waste production	1	3	0	0	0	1	5
Civil participation	poor civiness/ civil participation / commitment / engagement of the society	0	1	1	1	0	2	5
Immigration	flows of immigrants / integration of immigrants	1	2	0	0	0	2	5
Abusivism	illegal constructions / abusivism	0	3	0	1	0	0	4

Factors	Sub-factors	MEGA urban poles	Coastal urban areas	Inland urban areas	Rural areas with intensive agriculture	Intermediary rural areas	Rural and natural areas	<i>tot.frequencies</i>
Urban gentrification	urban gentrification	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
Real estate market	real estate market	0	1	1	0	1	0	3
Applied research	important applied research projects	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Social justice	gender inequalities	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
Air quality	air pollution / air emission	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Urban regeneration	urban regeneration, new facilities in deprived neighbourhoods, social housing	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Social capital	associationism and democratic participation in the PA	0	0	0	0	0	2	2

As we have already mentioned, respect to the list of territorial factors displayed on the basis of OTREMED regions' opinions, the validation process did not give significant results, since the respondents were too few (see chapter 6). Nevertheless, they called for the adequate consideration of both the important role played by rural and inland urban areas and the uneven territorial articulation of landscape and energy issues, which is indeed largely fulfilled by the final list of territorialised factors and sub-factors reported in table 12.

Focussing on the highest frequencies only (higher than 25), the most important competitive factors resulting from the survey with OTREMED regions are neither economic assets nor physical endowments, rather the presence or the absence of **planning tools**. On the one hand, this result is consistent with a contingent weakness of most of Mediterranean regions in environment protection, risk prevention, and sprawl containment measures, above all as far as Coastal urban areas, Intermediary rural areas and Rural and natural areas are involved. On the other hand, it also reflects the presence of good practices in landscape management.

A second important competitive factor is the regional **research system**. Again, the importance of this factor relies on the presence in the MED regions of either efficient or inefficient systems. The territories responsible of this factor are MEGA urban poles, Inland urban areas and Coastal urban areas. This result is consistent with the mainstream interpretation of cities as places of major concentration of regional innovation and research activities.

The competitiveness of MED regions also relies on the presence of vast **environmentally protected areas** largely. In this respect, the Mediterranean rural and natural areas are recognised as the most important sources of competitive advantage. Rural and natural areas,

together with Intermediary rural areas, are also strategic sites of another renowned Mediterranean competitive factor: **landscape resources**.

**Transport infrastructures** are also mentioned as key factors above all in the context of urban areas. Coastal areas in particular, seem to have to cope with relevant problems of transport congestion and inefficiency, while inland areas are often affected by lack of transport connections (infrastructures and public transport services) with either the coastal cities or the largest metropolitan areas (MEGA poles). Coastal urban areas also emerge as the locus of manifestation of serious problems of **urban sprawl** that may drastically reduce the competitiveness of the Mediterranean area.

Finally, Inland urban areas emerge as foremost concentration loci of place-specific forms of **industrial know-how**.

As to the territorial policies, most of the efforts regard Competitiveness issues, pursued above all in urban contexts. Important efforts also go in the direction of territorial management, above all in coastal urban areas and rural and natural areas.

*Table 13 – The competitive territorial policies in the MED space*

Policies	Sub-policies								tot frequencies
		MEGA urban poles	Coastal urban areas	Inland urban areas	Rural areas with intensive agriculture	Intermediary rural areas	Rural and natural areas		
Territorial	Regeneration, coastal areas, rural areas, functional zoning, natural and landscape	11	48	14	19	23	35	150	
Competitiveness	Innovation/creativity human capital, job creation)	39	43	44	1	7	11	145	
Service	ICT, technology transfer, transport	13	11	20	0	0	16	60	
Energy	energy production, efficiency, renewable resources	6	7	8	0	10	11	42	
Social	Young people, housing, immigrants, welfare, rural population	8	18	7	0	0	9	42	
Monitoring	Monitoring, analysing, integrating and strategic systems	0	5	2	5	5	8	19	
Financial	Taxes, credit	1	2	1	0	1	1	6	

Far less important are policies addressed to the service sector, the energy sector, the social system. Finally, monitoring and financing tools such as taxes and credits are rarely mentioned.

## 7.2. The competitive territorial factors of the MED space

In this section the territorial factors and sub-factors (and related relevant territories) have been associated to the development challenges (described as either 'key' or 'additional' development topics/issues by the contribution of Lazio Region and BIC Lazio) that characterise the MED space.

This passage was important in order to assure the coherence between the results of the phases 3.3 and 4.2 of the OTREMED project. Yet it was also important to provide the following phase 4.2 with all the relevant information in order to turn the territorial factors into either qualitative or quantitative variables describing the essence of the MED competitive model.

Consistent with this, in this paragraph we did not limit to associate the territorial factors to the territorial challenges; rather, for every territorial challenge we also detected a group of few keywords (reported at the bottom of every table) describing the nature of the corresponding territorial factors in a very synthetic way.

Table 14 – Key MED competitive factors coping with the revitalisation of the urban system (frequency of replies in bracket)

1. Revitalisation of the urban system		
Topics/issues	Territorial factors and sub-factors	Relevant for
1a2 Population growth and aging, critical mass	Demographic dynamism: aging population / depopulation / shrinking young people [15]	Rural and natural areas [6] Inland urban areas [5] MEGA urban poles [3] Costal urban areas [1]
1a3 Immigration/ Integration	Immigration: flows of immigrants / integration of immigrants [5]	Costal urban areas [2] Rural and natural areas [2] MEGA urban poles [1]
1d1 Urbanization and soil consumption degree and settlement models	Planning tools: presence or absence of planning tools (landscape and water and environment preservation, risk prevision, rural rehabilitation, energy) / monitoring systems / civil protection [58]	Rural and natural areas [17] Intermediary rural areas [16] Costal urban areas [14] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [10] MEGA urban poles [1]
	Urban sprawl: sprawl/land use / soil consumption/ continuous conurbations / Dispersed settlement models [28]	Coastal urban areas [9] Inland urban areas [6] Intermediary rural areas [6] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [4] Rural and natural areas [3]
	Settlement model: high concentration/ density of settlements and population / Over-exploitation of the territory [13]	Coastal urban areas [8] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [2] Intermediary rural areas [1] Inland urban areas [1] MEGA urban poles [1]
	Second-houses: tourism-houses / second-houses / vacancy-houses / empty houses [12]	Coastal urban areas [12]
	Core areas and regions: polarisation of functions in metropolitan areas and in a reduced number of centres / commuting flows [7]	Coastal urban areas [3] Inland urban areas [2] MEGA urban poles [1] Rural and natural areas [1]
	Illegal constructions / abusivism [4]	Coastal urban areas [3] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [1]

1. Revitalisation of the urban system		
Topics/issues	Territorial factors and sub-factors	Relevant for
1d1 Urbanization and soil consumption degree and settlement models	Urban gentrification [3]	Coastal urban areas [1] Inland urban areas [1] MEGA urban poles [1]
	Real estate market [3]	Coastal urban areas [1] Inland urban areas [1] Intermediary rural areas [1]
	Urban regeneration: urban regeneration, new facilities in deprived neighbourhoods, social housing [2]	MEGA urban poles [2]
1e1 Accessibility at different levels	Transport infrastructures: good transport infrastructures (ports, airports, logistic hubs, transport networks) / good transport connections [30]	Inland urban areas [13] Coastal urban areas [9] MEGA urban poles [6]
	Transport system: inefficient transport system (congestion, bottlenecks, environmental burdening, scarce infrastructures and services, lack of connections) [22]	Coastal urban areas [12] Inland urban areas [5] MEGA urban poles [3] Intermediary rural areas [1] Rural and natural areas [1]
	Urban mobility: efficient urban public transport services / cycling routes / park & ride system [12]	MEGA urban poles [6] Coastal urban areas [3] Inland urban areas [3]
1f1 Basic services and Supply for the population	Public services: poor public services (scarce health and education infrastructures / low accessibility / divide / no e-government) [20]	Rural and natural areas [17] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [2] MEGA urban poles [1]
<b>Keywords</b>		
<b>urbanisation and soil consumption trends, planning tools/practices, demographic trends, integrated transport systems, services supply</b>		

As far as the revitalisation of the urban system is concerned the factors that seem to be most relevant are those linked to the urbanization and soil consumption degree and to the settlement models. More specifically, the issue of **urbanisation and soil consumption trends**, often based on soil-consuming intensive settlement models favoured by residential uses and mass tourism activities strongly based on second houses, seems to call for more efficient **planning tools** and for adequate monitoring systems.

From a demographic point of view, the MED regions are suffering of two main problems. On the one hand, core areas - which can be either MEGA urban poles or more diffused coastal or inland urban systems - are characterised by low demographic growth rates and, consequently, by high ageing rates. On the other hand, most of the peripheral rural and natural areas are suffering heavily from depopulation and the shrinking in the number of young people. It can be said that **demographic dynamism** is seen as a crucial development factor, and probably under this view also immigration flows could be seen as a potential opportunity for contrasting negative trends (mostly in terms of ageing population).

Concerning accessibility, the core factor seems to be the presence (or absence) of efficient **integrated transport systems**, both in terms of internal accessibility to urban poles (especially in coastal urban areas) and external connections with other regions and areas through modern

and efficient infrastructures. The two sides of the question seem to be strictly inter-related. In fact, although the functional polarisation that characterises many urban areas is often seen as an obstacle for a balanced territorial development, it also implies the need of strengthening connections at a local/regional scale.

Finally, above all in rural and natural areas, a huge problem is the weakness of the basic **services supply** system, which is seen as a great obstacle to local development, or even for maintaining positive demographic dynamics.

*Table 15 – Key MED competitive factors coping with research and development (frequency of replies in bracket)*

2 Research and development		
Topics/issues	Territorial factors and sub-factors	Relevant for
2a1 University, Higher Education Centres, Public and Private Research	Research system: university / research institutions / higher education institutions / innovation centres / science and technology parks / incubators [41]	Coastal urban areas [15] Inland urban areas [14] MEGA urban poles [12]
	R&D investments: lack of R&D investments / presence of R&D investments [12]	MEGA urban poles [7] Coastal urban areas [3] Inland urban areas [2]
	Human capital: students / researchers / creative class [10]	MEGA urban poles [4] Inland urban areas [4] Coastal urban areas [2]
	Applied research: important applied research projects [3]	Inland urban areas [2] Coastal urban areas [1]
2b1 Cooperation	Cooperative agreements: cooperative projects and programmes / cooperative agreements / industry-university relationships [27]	Coastal urban areas [10] MEGA urban poles [9] Inland urban areas [7] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [1]
Keywords		
<b>integrated research systems, public-private partnerships, public and private investments, human capital</b>		

Research and development are generally seen as key factors for building durable and sustainable development policies, and for ensuring the competitiveness of the MED space. In this framework, the most important element is the presence, namely in the main urban poles, of **integrated research systems**, including universities, high education institutions, private research centres, innovation poles and so on. However, as underlined by many respondents to the survey, in order to produce positive effects on regional economies these systems have to fulfil some basic issues:

- 1) ticking forms of cooperation among the different stakeholders acting in this field, through agreements and **public-private partnerships**;
- 2) providing relevant **public and private investments**, so to make research and development one of the pillars of future scenarios;
- 3) valorisation of existing **human capital**, which is seen as one of the main assets of the whole area.

Table 16 – Key MED competitive factors coping with the crisis of the rural (frequency of replies in bracket)

3 Crisis of rural		
Topics/issues	Territorial factors and sub-factors	Relevant for
3b1 Economy of small and medium centres	Planning tools: presence or absence of planning tools (landscape and water and environment preservation, risk prevision, rural rehabilitation, energy) / monitoring systems / civil protection [58]	Rural and natural areas [17] Intermediary rural areas [16] Costal urban areas [14] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [10] MEGA urban poles [1]
	Environmental protected areas: natural parks / environmental protected areas / sites of EC interest [34]	Rural and natural areas [19] Intermediary rural areas [7] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [5] Costal urban areas [3]
	Landscape resources: landscape quality and biodiversity [33]	Rural and natural areas [11] Intermediary rural areas [9] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [6] Inland urban areas [3] Coastal urban areas [3] MEGA urban poles [1]
	Rural development: neo-rural practices / rural development / multifunctional agriculture / agro-industrial [14]	Rural areas with intensive agriculture [7] Intermediary rural areas [4] Rural and natural areas [2] Inland urban areas [1]
	Agriculture sector: crisis of agriculture / abandonment of forest and rural activities [6]	Rural areas with intensive agriculture [4] Intermediary rural areas [1] Rural and natural areas [1]
<b>Keywords</b>		
<b>planning tools/practices, natural capital, innovative agriculture</b>		

In the MED space, most of the rural areas are experiencing a period of crisis, coping with contrasting dynamics such as: the expansion of the urban settlement model and the subsequent consumption of fertile soil, the loss of traditional cultures and the abandonment of the most hard-to-cultivate sites (for example: remote mountain areas), the heavy industrialisation and/or mechanisation of the whole productive process, the lack of young entrepreneurs and so on, all in the framework of an heavy dependence from EU funding.

In order to overcome this crisis of the rural territories and their economies, the analysis allowed for the identification of some possible paths:

1. efficient use of **planning** tools, especially in the field of risks prevention and of preservation of natural assets;
2. valorisation of the rural **natural capital** (in terms of landscapes, biodiversity, parks, sites classified by the EU as "of communitarian interest" etc.) since it might be one of the main resources for future rural development, in order to diversify their economic base (for example promoting sustainable forms of tourism);

3. the growing demand for quality products shows the need for an **innovative agriculture**, that is a shift from an approach mainly based on quantity to a new one where products quality and the relation with local peculiarities are the keywords.

Table 17 – Key MED competitive factors coping with the access to transport (frequency of replies in bracket)

4 Access to transport		
Topics/issues	Territorial factors and sub-factors	Relevant for
4a1 Freight supply	Transport infrastructures: good transport infrastructures (ports, airports, logistic hubs, transport networks) / good transport connections [30]	Inland urban areas [13] Coastal urban areas [9] MEGA urban poles [6] Rural and natural areas [2]
	Transport system: inefficient transport system (congestion, bottlenecks, environmental burdening, scarce infrastructures and services, lack of connections) [22]	Coastal urban areas [12] Inland urban areas [5] MEGA urban poles [3] Intermediary rural areas [1] Rural and natural areas [1]
	Freight transport: poor multimodal freight transport / poor integrated freight transport [6]	MEGA urban poles [3] Coastal urban areas [2] Inland urban areas [1]
Keywords		
<b>integrated transport systems, multimodality</b>		

A good level of accessibility to transport infrastructures is a key factor for connecting MED space local economies to global markets. This calls for the development of **integrated transport systems**, where **multimodality** is the necessary mean for overcoming the geographical and morphological barriers, and for strengthening the connections among quite dispersed productive poles.

For coastal areas in particular this means in particular that connections through the sea should be enforced, also for lowering the high level of congestion that characterises the existing road and rail infrastructures.

Table 18 – Key MED competitive factors coping with the access to information and communication technologies (frequency of replies in bracket)

5 Access to information and communication technologies		
Topics/issues	Territorial factors and sub-factors	Relevant for
5a1 Degree of internationalization and transfer of technology	Innovation difficulties: poor technology transfer / low innovation / no critical mass [10]	Coastal urban areas [8] Inland urban areas [2]
	Internationalisation: internationalisation of firms and industries / attractiveness of international flows [6]	Inland urban areas [3] MEGA urban poles [2] Coastal urban areas [1]
5b1 E-government diffusion	Accessibility: accessibility to fast connections (high-speed railway, low-cost air connections, ICT broadband and services) [16]	MEGA urban poles [7] Coastal urban areas [3] Inland urban areas [3] Rural and natural areas [3]
Keywords		
<b>high speed connections, technological innovation</b>		

The digital divide that still characterises parts of the MED space is a relevant obstacle for its economic development. A key issue for filling this gap with other parts of the EU consist in extending accessibility to all kind of **high speed connections**, first of all ICT broadband, in order to increase the possibilities of internationalisation and of technological transfer for local enterprises. At the same time a higher degree of **technological innovation** would be required, so to sustain local economic activities and to strengthen them adequately in the global market.

*Table 19 – Key MED competitive factors coping with the management of cultural resources (frequency of replies in bracket)*

<b>8 Management of cultural resources</b>		
<i>Topics/issues</i>	<i>Territorial factors and sub-factors</i>	<i>Relevant for</i>
8a1 Policies for land protection	Planning tools: presence or absence of planning tools (landscape and water and environment preservation, risk prevision, rural rehabilitation, energy) / monitoring systems / civil protection [58]	Rural and natural areas [17] Intermediary rural areas [16] Costal urban areas [14] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [10] MEGA urban poles [1]
8b1 "Culture" resource and economy	Cultural heritage: cultural heritage, sites, monuments, events, eco-museums [21]	Inland urban areas [7] MEGA urban poles [6] Rural and natural areas [3] Costal urban areas [2] Intermediary rural areas [2] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [1]
<i>Keywords</i>		
<b>Planning tools/ practices, cultural capital</b>		

The richness in terms of available cultural resources and of cultural heritage is probably one of the most outstanding characters of the whole MED space. The crucial issue in this context is the capability of sustainably exploit these resources, avoiding to repeat (or to perpetuate) the mass tourism model of the past decades, that has shown its high environmental, social and even economic costs.

The main factor that emerges from the analysis is once again the presence of **planning** tools that can guarantee the preservation of existing resources, also against natural hazards. Only in such a framework the **cultural capital** of MED space could become a durable economic asset, and be fully valorised (especially for rural and natural areas).

Table 20 – Key MED competitive factors coping with the sustainability of regional economic resources (frequency of replies in bracket)

9 Sustainability of regional economic resources		
Topics/issues	Territorial factors and sub-factors	Relevant for
9a1 Employment Dynamics	Market conditions: scarce job opportunities/ unemployment [17]	Inland urban areas [6] Rural and natural areas [4] Costal urban areas [4] MEGA urban poles [2] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [1]
9a3 Structure and dimension of enterprises and economic framework	Industrial know-how: local know how / traditional industries/ local products and clusters (textile, footwear, ceramics, furniture, food, toy, jewellery, taps and valves, auto, cooling technologies, wine, wood) / creative milieu [27]	Inland urban areas [12] Intermediary rural areas [5] MEGA urban poles [4] Costal urban areas [3] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [2] Rural and natural areas [1]
	Regional economy: competitive industrial fabric / competitive tertiary fabric / new jobs / new activities [23]	MEGA urban poles [11] Inland urban areas [6] Costal urban areas [5] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [1]
	Renewable energies: energy sources (solar , wind, water, biomass) / renewable energy production [21]	Inland urban areas [5] Coastal urban areas [4] MEGA urban poles [4] Intermediary rural areas [4] Rural and natural areas [4]
	Green economy: green behaviours / green building / green economy /sustainable practices / environmental corporate responsibility [21]	MEGA urban poles [6] Intermediary rural areas [6] Costal urban areas [4] Rural and natural areas [4] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [1]
	Energy market: energy dependence / poor energy diversification [11]	Intermediary rural areas [3] Costal urban areas [2] MEGA urban poles [2] Inland urban areas [2] Rural and natural areas [2]
	Human capital: students / researchers / creative class [10]	MEGA urban poles [4] Inland urban areas [4] Coastal urban areas [2]
	Socio-economic stakeholders: social and economic stakeholders / economic programmes [9]	Inland urban areas [4] Coastal urban areas [4] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [1]
	Innovation capability: innovative economy / innovative projects / innovative start-ups / smart economy [6]	MEGA urban poles [4] Inland urban areas [1] Coastal urban areas [1]
	Creative industries: cultural industries / creative industries [7]	MEGA urban poles [3] Inland urban areas [3] Rural and natural areas [1]
<b>Keywords</b>		
<b>technical capital, technological innovation, green economy, renewable energy sources, human capital, job market, public-private partnership</b>		

Inside a context where **job market dynamism** reaches generally insufficient levels, especially for certain categories of citizens (young people, women, low-educated workers among others), MED space possesses some crucial assets that can sustain its competitiveness:

- 1) the **technical capital** and the well-rooted know-how that industrial districts and productive clusters have settled in time, and that constitute a huge development potential. From more traditional handicraft activities (such as textile, footwear, ceramics, furniture and so on) to highly specialised mechanical districts, the MED space possesses a rich industrial sector, mostly made of small-to-medium enterprises but also of multinational companies. The recognition and thus the valorisation of this value shall be one of the main pillars of future developments;
- 2) the **human capital** that animates that industrial and handicraft sector is also of the maximum relevance. A mix of traditional and innovative/creative skills, sometimes underexploited, can assure a high degree of competitiveness to the area;
- 3) the rich potential in terms of **renewable energy sources** (wood, solar, geothermal, wind etc.) can also be an *atout* to be further developed, in order to fulfil Europe 2020 strategy and at the same time sustaining local economic sectors, cutting the dependence from imported fossil fuels.

Another key factor for strengthening MED space enterprises system is, according to OTREMED partners, the capacity of pushing **innovation** and creativity, which is the capacity of creating both new kind of products and innovative ways of producing and delivering traditional goods and services. The human, technical and social capital of the area should provide the necessary background for designing a smart economy for the future.

Finally, the active involvement of private stakeholders into development policies through **public-private partnership** and integrated programmes seems to be a necessary step for guaranteeing the capacity of public investments of generating positive effect on the economy structure of the area, especially in a period of time characterised by the financial crisis of many public administrations.

*Table 21 – Key MED competitive factors coping with governance (frequency of replies in bracket)*

<b>10 Governance</b>		
<i>Topics/issues</i>	<i>Territorial factors and sub-factors</i>	<i>Relevant for</i>
10a2 Services/supply provision by public administration	Public services: poor public services (scarce health and education infrastructures / low accessibility / divide / no e-government) [20]	Rural and natural areas [17] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [2] MEGA urban poles [1]
10b1 Efficiency of public administration	Governance system: low cooperation / scarce governance / scarce optimisation / functional conflicts [14]	Inland urban areas [6] Coastal urban areas [5] Rural and natural areas [3]
	Social capital: associationism and democratic participation in the PA [2]	Rural and natural areas [2]
<b>Keywords</b>		
<b>public-public partnership, social capital</b>		

Efficient governance systems are one of the key elements for guaranteeing policies efficacy. In the MED space there often are governance problems, in terms of scarce cooperation between public authorities operating at different levels or on different issues, of functional conflicts or superimpositions between public authorities and so on. The result of such a situation might be in certain cases inefficiency in services delivering, uneven access to welfare benefits, etc. This uneven access to services can often become a territorial unbalance, increasing the marginality and unattractiveness of rural and natural areas.

In this view OTREMED partners underlined the crucial role that thick and flexible forms of **public-public partnership** might play in increasing the overall efficacy and efficiency of governance systems. At more, MED space territories can count on solid **social capital**, made of a thick network of associations working in various fields, from culture to welfare; if well (better) coordinated with public authorities, this network could be an *atout* for increasing the quality of life in the area.

Table 22 – Key MED competitive factors coping with the landscape management (frequency of replies in bracket)

11 Landscape management		
Topics/issues	Territorial factors and sub-factors	Relevant for
11a1 Planning and policies framework	Planning tools: presence or absence of planning tools (landscape and water and environment preservation, risk prevision, rural rehabilitation, energy) / monitoring systems / civil protection [58]	Rural and natural areas [17] Intermediary rural areas [16] Costal urban areas [14] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [10] MEGA urban poles [1]
	Environmental protected areas: natural parks / environmental protected areas / sites of EC interest [34]	Rural and natural areas [19] Intermediary rural areas [7] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [5] Costal urban areas [3]
	Landscape resources: landscape quality and biodiversity [33]	Rural and natural areas [11] Intermediary rural areas [9] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [6] Inland urban areas [3] Coastal urban areas [3] MEGA urban poles [1]
	Urban sprawl: sprawl/land use / soil consumption/ continuous conurbations / Dispersed settlement models [28]	Coastal urban areas [9] Inland urban areas [6] Intermediary rural areas [6] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [4] Rural and natural areas [3]
	Illegal constructions / abusivism [4]	Coastal urban areas [3] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [1]
<b>Keywords</b>		
<b>Planning tools/practices, natural capital, landscape capital, urbanisation and soil consumption trends</b>		

The richness and oneness of MED space landscapes constitutes one of its main assets, one of the main resources that differentiate the area from other parts of Europe and of the world.

Protecting and at the same time valorising those resources is undoubtedly an essential goal for building a sustainable development model, especially for the most remote and somehow marginal territories of the area. OTREMED partners spotted out some of the main phenomena that endangers MED space landscapes, first of all the actual settlement models that are producing urban dispersion and **sprawl**. A special emphasis has thus to be put on **planning** tools that can protect the **landscapes** and **natural capital** of the area, in accordance with European directives and with the Landscape Convention.

Table 23 – Additional MED competitive factors coping with sustainable energy (frequency of replies in bracket)

6 Sustainable energy		
Topics/issues	Territorial factors and sub-factors	Relevant for
6a1 Energy demand and diversification	Renewable energies: energy sources (solar , wind, water, biomass) / renewable energy production [21]	Inland urban areas [5] Coastal urban areas [4] MEGA urban poles [4] Intermediary rural areas [4] Rural and natural areas [4]
	Green economy: green behaviours / green building / green economy /sustainable practices / environmental corporate responsibility [21]	MEGA urban poles [6] Intermediary rural areas [6] Coastal urban areas [4] Rural and natural areas [4] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [1]
	Energy market: energy dependence / poor energy diversification [11]	Intermediary rural areas [3] Coastal urban areas [2] MEGA urban poles [2] Inland urban areas [2] Rural and natural areas [2]
<i>Keywords</i>		
<b>green economy, renewable energy sources, energy diversification</b>		

The issue of energy production and consumption plays a central role in the definition of a new economic and productive model for the next decades. The MED space is living into a kind of contradiction: on the one side most of its regions are heavily dependent on imported energy, since they don't have many fossil fuels resources; on the other side water, wind, wood and other **renewable energy sources** represent a huge potential for decreasing the area energy dependence.

OTREMED partners underlined the fact that **energy diversification** has to become one of the main challenges for the future of MED space, through a sound and sustainable exploitation of locally available resources. However, alongside with energy production a special attention has to be paid to energy consumption. This means for example that green behaviours should be encouraged and pushed, as well as the gradual reconversion of the existing building stocks into more sustainable and less energy consuming ones, or the environmental sustainability of companies, and so on. Such a strategy would also imply sustaining a **green economy**, which might be one of the economic pillars of the area in the future.

Table 24 – Additional MED competitive factors coping with disaster related prevention and management of natural resources (frequency of replies in bracket)

7 Disaster related risk prevention and management of natural resources		
Topics/issues	Territorial factors and sub-factors	Relevant for
7a1 Natural hazards and environmental restoration measures	Planning tools: presence or absence of planning tools (landscape and water and environment preservation, risk prevision, rural rehabilitation, energy) / monitoring systems / civil protection [58]	Rural and natural areas [17] Intermediary rural areas [16] Costal urban areas [14] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [10] MEGA urban poles [1]
	Human and environment risks: coastal risk / erosion risk / flood risk / drought risk [11]	Costal urban areas [3] Rural and natural areas [3] Intermediary rural areas [3] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [1] Inland urban areas [1]
	Air quality: air pollution / air emission [2]	Costal urban areas [1] Intermediary rural areas [1]
Keywords		
<b>planning tools/practices, monitoring</b>		

The issue of disaster related risk prevention is somehow transversal to many other questions treated by OTREMED partners, such as the valorisation of landscapes or the governance of settlement models. Probably the issue is considered as a pre-condition for the competitiveness of the area, more of an ordinary practice rather than a development strategy.

The two keywords here are **planning** and **monitoring**: tools are needed for the prevention of risks that can especially relevant in large parts of the MED space, as clearly shown by the almost daily chronicles of floods, earthquakes, landslides but also human-generated disasters. Of course, together with an efficient planning system, risk prevention has to count on an adequate level of funding.

Table 25 – Additional MED competitive factors coping with governance (frequency of replies in bracket)

10 Governance		
Topics/issues	Territorial factors and sub-factors	Relevant for
10a1 Capacity of public administration	Governance system: low cooperation / scarce governance / scarce optimisation / functional conflicts [14]	Inland urban areas [6] Coastal urban areas [5] Rural and natural areas [3]
Keywords		
<b>public-public partnership</b>		

The issue of public administration capacity is quite a transversal one, influencing many questions from services delivery to economic programming, from territorial policies management to accessibility. As stated before the main point in this case is to increase **public-public partnership** level, which is the capacity of public administration of adopting transversal and integrated approaches to public policies, focusing on problems to be faced rather than on sector competencies.

Finally, the list of the MED competitive factors that did not fit with any of the development topics detected by the Region Lazio is reported in table 25

*Table 26 – Additional MED competitive factors that don't fit with any specific topic*

<i>Territorial factors and sub-factors</i>	<i>Relevant for</i>
Tourism facilities: restaurants and hotels / tourism facilities and services [16]	MEGA urban poles [3] Coastal urban areas [3] Intermediary rural areas [3] Rural and natural areas [3] Inland urban areas [2] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [2]
Fairs and expositions: expositions (art, industrial) [7]	Inland urban areas [4] MEGA urban poles [2] Rural and natural areas [1]
Consumption of natural resources: high consumption of natural resources [6]	Rural areas with intensive agriculture [3] Intermediary rural areas [1] Inland urban areas [1] Coastal urban areas [1]
Seasonal trends: seasonal traffic congestion/ seasonal energy power peaks / seasonal waste production [5]	Coastal urban areas [3] MEGA urban poles [1] Rural and natural areas [1]
Civil participation: poor civiness/ civil participation / commitment / engagement of the society [5]	Rural and natural areas [2] Inland urban areas [1] Coastal urban areas [1] Rural areas with intensive agriculture [1]
Social justice: gender inequalities [3]	Coastal urban areas [1] MEGA urban poles [1] Inland urban areas [1]

The most relevant factors are those linked with the promotion and the valorisation of local resources, through either tourism or the organisation of events such as fairs and expositions, also for contrasting problems linked to the high level of seasonality of the actual mass-tourism model. The issues of scarce civil participation and social justice were also mentioned, but in very few cases they were considered as strategic issues for the development of the MED space.

### **7.3. The MED-specific competitive model**

The contributions of 12 of the 13 partners of the OTREMED project led to the identification of a MED-specific competitive model, which was also validated by 17 MED regions that are not partners in the project.

The essence of this competitive model can be characterised as follows:

- the MED space presents a highly diversified territorial structure that overlaps with the regional administrative partition poorly. Most of the MED land area is occupied by rural and natural areas (34%). A relevant share is also due to intermediary rural areas (28%). Rural areas with intensive agriculture occupy 16%. While urban areas occupy 21% of the total land area: 11% due to inland areas, 9% due to coastal areas, and 1% due to MEGA poles. Finally, small islands and archipelagos account for 1%;
- nevertheless, any attempt to report the MED space to a well-defined sample of geographical regions, characterised by homogeneous territorial features (mountain, hill

- a reason of the great territorial variety of the MED space relies on the history and geography of its regions. In the MED space, a vast heritage of tangible and intangible assets, which have been defined by an historic layering of values and cultures, and an accumulation of traditions and social, cultural and economic experiences, is recognized as such in its diversity and it is used to feed networks of relationships at the various geographical scales (from the local to the global). In this sense, the MED space uses traditionally embedded assets (such as cultural heritage, landscape, traditional industries and know-how) to construct its competitive advantage in a multi-scalar and trans-scalar way;
- yet, the development model expressed by the MED space is also contradictory in a certain sense. More specifically, the factors that have been mentioned as MED strengths by some Regions have been mentioned as weaknesses by other ones. For instance, this is the case of transport infrastructures and services, and firm-university relationships;
- moreover, in comparison with other European macro-regions, the MED space is highly dependent on external fluxes of energy, resources, goods and competences, and those fluxes are often characterised by seasonal trends. Particularly, this is the case of summer and winter tourism, that provoke congestion and over-crowding effects above all in coastal urban areas;
- indeed, coastal areas emerge as key strategic territories pushing the competitiveness of the MED space. On the one hand, almost all the surveyed regions (both OTREMED and non-OTREMED), have in fact showed to be aware of the strategic role of coastal areas with respect to several development challenges (revitalisation of the urban system, access to transport, research and development), functions (economic, residential, environmental) and scales of intervention (urban, regional and Mediterranean). On the other hand, the scarce presence of small islands and archipelagos in the analysed regional contexts has determined a certain underestimation of the centrality of these territories.

In the table that follows the **synthetic key words** representing the *competitive territorial factors* in the MED space (see 7.2) have been one more time organised according to both the key and additional development themes/challenges they concur to cope with, and the list of the related territories.

Table 27 - Competitive territorial factors and related territories in the MED space

Key development themes / challenges	Sub-themes / challenges or territorial dynamics in the MED space	Competitive territorial factors in the MED space	Territories to which the factor is mostly referred
1. Revitalisation of the urban system	Population growth, aging population, and critical mass in active population Immigration/Integration Urbanization, soil consumption degree, and settlement models Accessibility at different levels Basic services and supply for the population	<b>urbanisation and soil consumption trends</b>	coastal urban areas inland urban areas
		<b>demographic trends</b>	rural and natural areas inland urban areas
		<b>planning tools/practices</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas coastal urban areas
		<b>integrated transport systems</b>	inland urban areas coastal urban areas MEGA urban poles
		<b>services supply</b>	rural and natural areas
2. Research and development	University, Higher Education Centres, Public and Private Research Institutions Cooperation	<b>integrated research systems</b>	coastal urban areas inland urban areas
		<b>public-private partnerships</b>	MEGA urban poles coastal urban areas inland urban areas
		<b>public and private investments</b>	MEGA urban poles
		<b>human capital</b>	MEGA urban poles inland urban areas
3. Crisis of rural	Economy of small and medium centres	<b>planning</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas
		<b>natural capital</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas
		<b>innovative agriculture</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas rural areas with intensive agriculture
4. Access to transport	Freight supply	<b>integrated transport systems</b>	MEGA urban poles coastal urban areas inland urban areas
		<b>multimodality</b>	MEGA urban poles coastal urban areas inland urban areas
5. Access to information and communication technologies	Degree of internationalization and transfer of technology E-government diffusion	<b>high-speed connections</b>	MEGA urban poles coastal urban areas inland urban areas
		<b>technological innovation</b>	coastal urban areas inland urban areas
8. Management of cultural resources	Policies for land protection	<b>planning tools/practices</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas coastal urban areas
	"Culture" resource and economy	<b>cultural capital</b>	MEGA urban poles inland urban areas

Key development themes / challenges	Sub-themes / challenges or territorial dynamics in the MED space	Competitive territorial factors in the MED space	Territories to which the factor is mostly referred
9. Sustainability of regional economic resources	Employment Dynamics Structure and dimension of enterprises and economic framework	<b>technical capital</b>	inland urban areas intermediary rural areas MEGA urban poles
		<b>technological innovation</b>	MEGA urban poles inland urban areas
		<b>green economy</b>	MEGA urban poles coastal urban areas rural and natural areas
		<b>renewable energy sources</b>	coastal urban areas inland urban areas
		<b>human capital</b>	MEGA urban poles inland urban areas
		<b>job market</b>	inland urban areas intermediary rural areas
		<b>public-private partnership</b>	MEGA urban poles coastal urban areas inland urban areas
10. Governance	Services/supply provision by public administration Efficiency of public administration	<b>public-public partnership</b>	rural and natural areas
		<b>social capital</b>	coastal urban areas inland urban areas
11. Landscape management	Planning and policies framework	<b>planning tools/practices</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas
		<b>natural capital</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas
		<b>landscape capital</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas rural areas with intensive agriculture
		<b>urbanisation and soil consumption trends</b>	coastal urban areas inland urban areas
Additional development themes/challenges	Sub-themes/challenges or territorial dynamics in the MED space	Competitive territorial factors in the MED space	Territories to which the factor is mostly referred
6. Sustainable energy	Energy demand and diversification	<b>green economy</b>	MEGA urban poles coastal urban areas rural and natural areas
		<b>renewable energy sources</b>	coastal urban areas inland urban areas
		<b>energy diversification</b>	intermediary rural areas
7. Disaster related risk prevention and management of natural resources	Natural hazards and environmental restoration measures	<b>planning tools/practices</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas coastal urban areas
		<b>monitoring</b>	rural and natural areas intermediary rural areas coastal urban areas

## 8. TERRITORIAL FACTORS: A SWOT ANALYSIS

In order to better understand the significance of the territorial factors in the context of the MED space, and thus use them for measuring the competitiveness level (existing and potential) of its territories, two last operations have to be made. The first one consists in giving a clear and context-specific definition of each factor, specifying from which kind of phenomena they derive, which kind of problem they highlight, which kind of opportunity they're the spy of and so on.

The second operation consists in confronting the factors one with the other, trying to read the possible interactions among them and then classify them on the basis of the impact they have on the overall competitiveness of the area. That operation will take the form of a SWOT analysis, which shall highlight some general common elements that characterise MED territories

### 8.1. A definition of the territorial factors in the MED context

#### *Planning tools/practices*

For many of the issues treated in the previous pages a key role is played by the capacity Public Administrations have to design and use adequate planning tools for managing their territories. It is not merely a question of presence or absence of planning tools and practices that has to be tackled. The crucial questions that this factor should highlight are at least three:

- the capacity of producing strategic visions for addressing or sustaining territorial processes;
- the capacity of integrating sectoral approaches and tools, overcoming as much as possible the barriers that divide both different policy fields and different administrative levels;
- the efficacy of tools and practices, that is their capacity of interacting (positively) with existing trends and processes.

The presence or absence and the quality of planning tools and practices can be seen as a meta-factor, meaning that it indicates the potential capacity that a territory has to develop effective and efficient policies.

#### *Monitoring*

The presence of adequate monitoring systems that can allow the assessment of both territorial dynamics and the effects generated by public policies plays a role similar to the one played by planning tools and practices. This too in fact is a meta-factor, a prerequisite for policy effectiveness.

### *Urbanisation and soil consumption trends*

In the territorial development model that most of MED regions have followed in the past decades a central role has been played by the construction sector<sup>32</sup>. Such a development model has had serious consequences in terms of environmental costs, increased mobility needs (and related costs), impact on landscapes and natural goods, reduction of cultivable soil, difficulties in delivering adequate public services and so on. Evaluating the degree of dispersion of urban settlements, and how intense is the sprawl dynamic, can thus help better understand which kind of obstacles MED territories have to face when designing sustainable development scenarios.

### *Demographic trends*

MED territories are experiencing different and sometimes-conflicting phenomena for what demographic trends are concerned<sup>33</sup>. Generally speaking most of the area is experiencing low population growing rates and high ageing rates, but those phenomena are not homogeneously diffused. Some areas are experiencing negative demographic dynamics more than others, for example with a shrinking percentage of young people or the depopulation of some territories, while in other contexts (for example in certain urban poles) the demographic balance is more stable. On the other hand immigration, for a relevant percentage coming from South Mediterranean countries, can be seen as a potential significant resource for rebalancing the demographic structures of MED regions.

### *Integrated transport systems*

The variety of MED space geographical and morphological characters has a relevant impact on the possibility of having equal accessibility conditions for all its territories. Moreover, the dispersion of urban settlements, and at the same time the fragmentation of MED space economic and productive system, highlights the necessity of an adequate transport system. There are cases of lack of infrastructures (for example in South Italy or in Greece), but accessibility could be increased also through policies centred on an efficient use of existing resources and infrastructures, both at local and at interregional/international scale. Measuring the level of integration among different transport means can offer an interesting point of view on the competitiveness potential of MED regions, partially setting aside the presence or absence of a thick infrastructures network. The point is not only which resources a territory has, but also how it uses them.

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<sup>32</sup> Stawińska, A., *The EU-27 construction sector: from boom to gloom*, Eurostat, Statistics in focus, 7/2010 ([http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product\\_details/publication?p\\_product\\_code=KS-SF-10-007](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-SF-10-007)).

<sup>33</sup> See Espon project "DEMIFER - Demographic and Migratory Flows Affecting European Regions and Cities" final report ([http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Projects/Menu\\_AppliedResearch/demifer.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/demifer.html)). See for example Abis, S., *The socio-demographic context*, in Hervieu, B. (edited by), *Mediterra 2008: the future of agriculture and food in mediterranean countries*, Presses de Science Po, Paris, 2008 ([http://www.iamm.fr/ressources/opac\\_css/index.php?lvl=notice\\_display&id=25654&seule=1](http://www.iamm.fr/ressources/opac_css/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=25654&seule=1)).

### *Services supply*

The presence of a solid and diffuse network of public services is often a pre-condition for a good level of territorial competitiveness. The situation in most parts of the MED space is often characterised by a certain unbalance. In fact, while core areas are most of the time sufficiently well covered by services, some remote or marginal areas (like some parts of the Alps, small islands etc.) are less connected and served. In such a situation the competitiveness factor to be measured seems to be the density/capillarity of basic services, from health to education, from transport to culture.

### *Integrated research systems*

Research and innovation undoubtedly play a key role in economic and social growth. MED regions often dispose of high-level institutions, both public and private, but sometimes is lacking an efficient governance system that integrates the existing resources and that fully exploits the potential synergies among them. The development of thick connections among subjects that are different in terms of legal status (public/private), of dimensions (local/global) or of scopes (base/applied research) is thus a condition for an efficient exploitation of local innovation potentials.

### *Public-private partnerships*

In a moment when resources that can be used for sustaining development are generally scarce, the capacity of mobilising and combining both public and private resources is crucial. All kind of resources should be included: financial as well as technical, political, administrative, technological and so on. The key point here seems to be the capacity of integrating public and private actors (including citizens) in policy making, since from the efficiency and the efficacy of the whole governance system largely depends the possibility of exploiting potential local competitive advantages.

### *Public and private investments*

Connected with the issue of public-private partnership, the capacity of integrating and coordinating investments coming from different actors is a key factor for overcoming the gap that large parts of the MED space have in the field of R&D when compared to many North Europe areas<sup>34</sup>. This seems to be particularly true in countries and regions where the average size of companies is particularly low, thus the necessity of building strong R&D network is stronger. Once more the focal point is on the maximisation of the effects generated by the use of existing resources, and not only increasing both public and private investments.

### *Natural capital*

MED space natural capital is one of its main assets, in terms of variety, of extension, of biodiversity and so on. Environment-oriented policies in the past decades have highly

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<sup>34</sup> See for example European Commission - DG Enterprise and Industry, *European Innovation Scoreboard 2009* (ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item\_id=4139&tpa=0&tk=&lang=en)

incremented the number of protected areas, which nowadays constitute one of the main ecological resources of the whole EU<sup>35</sup>. The conservation and valorisation of such a capital is often facing difficulties in terms of capacity of sustaining and strengthening the economy of communities living in these areas. Competitiveness in this field can be thus described as a locally rooted balance between preservation of the natural system and development of sustainable and dynamic local economies.

#### *Technical capital*

The presence of consolidated handicraft and manufacturing traditions in MED regions can represent a competitive advantage, even in a situation where the traditional productive patterns are passing through a period of crisis, in some cases irreversible (production delocalisation, dismission of manufacturing districts etc.).

The diffuse technological know-how's that those productive systems have spread in many parts of the MED space can be considered as a development opportunity, but only if public policies have the capacity of mobilising them. In this view, the phenomena that shall be measured for the evaluation of this factor could be linked to lifelong learning policies, as well as to the level of innovation in traditional/consolidated productive clusters.

#### *Human capital*

MED space human capital is characterised by contrasting phenomena:

- in many territories traditional and /or consolidated skills and know-hows in many fields (agriculture, industry, handicraft etc ) do cope with the capacity to innovate, from the point of view of both economic processes and products;
- the education rates of many MED space territories are below the EU average, both for older and younger generations<sup>36</sup>;
- high unemployment rates among young people can be read as an effect not only of an inefficient job market, but also of the weakness of connections between the educational systems and the economic structures of many MED territories.

The issue at stake in this case seem to be mainly two: the capacity that public and policies have to valorise and improve existing know-hows through adequate educational systems and programmes, and the level of relations between educational systems and job market.

#### *Cultural capital*

The cultural heritage of MED space is undoubtedly one of its main assets, a series of tangible and intangible goods that give to the whole area a unique appeal. The management and valorisation of such a massive cultural heritage poses some critical questions, to which all MED regions have to find adequate answers:

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<sup>35</sup> See for example Natura 2000 data ([ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000)).

<sup>36</sup> See Eurydice Key Data Series for 2012, [eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents)).

- the dimension, differentiation and diffusion of cultural goods makes it difficult and expensive (in financial and technical terms) to guarantee adequate conservation policies;
- innovative management models that could increase the economic profitability of cultural heritage have to deal with a high level of dependency from public funds, and therefore from public bureaucracies;
- the role of private funds in the valorisation of cultural capital is often too scarce, especially in comparison with other Countries (see for example the role of foundations in the U.S.A.).

#### *Landscape capital*

Landscape capital in the MED space can be defined as the effect of a millennia-long interaction between human activities, built environment and nature, and it can be undoubtedly be considered as one of the area's main assets. The richness and diversity of MED space landscapes, recognised also by international organisms<sup>37</sup>, is often endangered by land use models characterised by the dispersion of urban settlements, by the impact of infrastructures (roads, railways, aeolian farms etc.). The existence and the effectiveness of plans and tools for landscape conservation and management could thus be considered as an index of the capacity of valorising this asset.

#### *Social capital*

The term “social capital” is used in the context of OTREMED with reference to the so-called “third sector”, i.e. the thick network of NGOs, civic associations and other organised citizens' structures that actively supports and promotes the production of public goods. In countries where the welfare system standards show many deficiencies, especially if compared with those of other EU areas, those networks already constitute an essential resource for guaranteeing social cohesion and inclusion, which in turn are basic conditions for sustaining competitiveness. From OTREMED point of view what this factor should help assessing is the thickness of those network at territorial scale, and the level of interactions between them and public authorities.

#### *High-speed connections*

The issue of high-speed ICT and transport connections is crucial for sustaining development and economic growth. MED space presents differentiated conditions in this field: while some poles and urban areas are well integrated in transnational main transport networks and have a reasonably good access to broadband network and services, other relevant areas still suffer from lack or weakness of connections.

The question in this case seems to be measuring to which extent MED territories have access to this kind of connections, and at the same time how deep is the digital divide that affects them.

#### *Technological innovation*

The role of MED space competitiveness in a global context largely depends on its capacity of investing in innovation. Figures show that many MED countries invest low percentages of their

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<sup>37</sup> See for example the UNESCO World Heritage list, [whc.unesco.org/en/list](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list).

GDP in R&D<sup>38</sup>, and those policies have a negative impact on innovation intensity (now and at least in a mid-term future). On the other hand in recent years many interesting initiatives have been implemented all over the area, like the birth of technological poles where public institutions, public and private research centres and companies tightly cooperate and share their knowledges and resources. For measuring the level of technological innovation of a specific territory it is then necessary to consider both aspects, that is the long-term inertia of insufficient investments in R&D and the impacts generated by the existing and new excellence poles.

#### *Green economy*

One of the basic challenges for a sustainable development of European economy is its capability of innovating both the productive processes and the products themselves, and that implies that the relevance of the so-called green economy should be increased. Here again MED space presents contradictory characters: while generally speaking many areas have significant delays in ecological transformation of the productive system, the presence of excellence productions and/or productive clusters has to be highlighted.

This factor should be used for analysing a quite wide range of phenomena: from the presence and the weight of green companies to the typology of energy systems, from waste treatment cycles to water resources management.

#### *Renewable energy sources*

MED space regions are generally heavily dependant on imported energy (mostly generated through non-renewable sources). At the same time most areas, depending on local specificities, show a considerable potential for what energy production from renewable resources is concerned (aeolian, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric etc.).

Headline indicators elaborated for monitoring the level of compliance with strategy Europe 2020 objectives<sup>39</sup> are of course a reference point, but in addition to that a certain emphasis in MED space case should be probably put on the issue of production potentials, as well as on the energy efficiency of the existing building stock.

#### *Energy diversification*

The high level of dependency from imported fossil fuels represents a concrete threat for MED regions, especially considering that many of the countries from which gas or oil are imported are often crossed by political instability or armed conflicts. In order to overcome those obstacles two main strategies should be pursued: on the one side energy consumption should be heavily reduced, and on the other energy production sources should be diversified. In other words a sound exit strategy from the oil era could be represented by a sustainable exploitation of local energy production potentials, and this implies that a variety of resources should be used,

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<sup>38</sup> See EUROSTAT data at [epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics\\_explained](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained).

<sup>39</sup> See [epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/europe\\_2020\\_indicators/headline\\_indicators](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/europe_2020_indicators/headline_indicators).

sustaining diffuse networks of small-medium plants instead of fewer bigger (and more impacting) ones.

#### *Job market*

MED space regions job market is suffering heavily the consequences of last years' economic crisis. The main data on unemployment<sup>40</sup> clearly show negative trends for all MED countries, and this afflicts in particular certain categories of people (women, young people, low educated etc.). A huge debate is ongoing in MED space societies on the role that job market rules and restrictions have on those trends, and on the consequent scarce dynamism of job market.

In the framework of OTREMED purposes, the analysis and evaluation of local job markets should be done trying to consider not only the most common data (for instance employment/unemployment rates), but also some peculiarities (like the average size of enterprises, the role of the public sector and so on) that characterise MED regions.

#### *Public-public partnership*

One of the key factors for guaranteeing territorial competitiveness is the presence of an efficient public sector, flexible enough for facing the ever-changing challenges generated by social and economic dynamics. The fragmentation of powers, competencies and policies is becoming more and more an obstacle for building shared strategies and pursuing common goals. A higher level of public-public partnership is required for facing policy-making complexity.

An analysis of inter-institutional cooperation should be quality-oriented rather than focusing only on the quantities, and should be able to take into due consideration both formal and informal public-public relations.

#### *Innovative agriculture*

Agriculture still plays a crucial role in MED space economy, not much in terms of jobs or financial weight over the area GDP but rather for what its quality, richness and variety are concerned, distinguishing that area from the rest of EU regions. Switching the core of agricultural policies from quantity to quality seems to be one of the main challenges for the future. Phenomena like the growth of biological cultivations or of quality-labelled products might give a significant hint of how MED space territories are facing this challenges, and on which kind resources they can count on ion the global market.

#### *Multimodality*

Geo-morphological characters of MED space have always represented a challenge for freight transports. Even if huge investments in various infrastructures have been made in the last decades, most of freight mobility is strongly dependant on the road systems. The policies that MED space countries should follow for what freight transport is concerned should encourage multimodality. This means that different transport means (air, road, railway, sea) should be

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<sup>40</sup> See for example EUROSTAT, [epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu).

integrated, with the double scope of maximising efficiency and minimising environmental and social impacts. Consequently the two phenomena that should be observed are:

- the presence of adequate infrastructural networks and of exchange platforms;

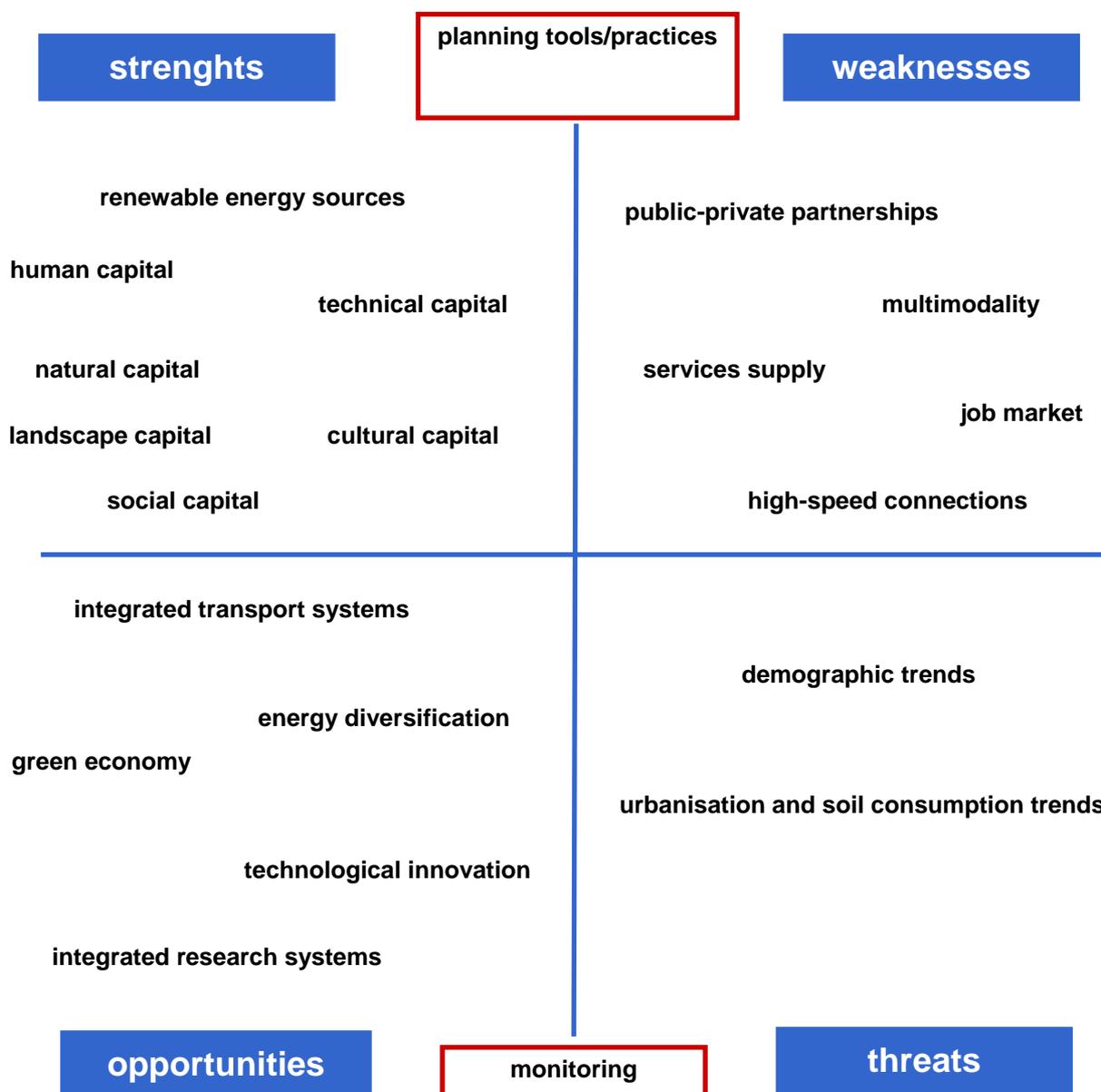
the level of exploitation of existing infrastructures, especially considering maritime and railway freight transport.

## 8.2. A SWOT analysis

The scheme presented in the next page summarises the results of the analysis conducted among OTREMED partners, and organises the territorial factors according to the role that each one of them has for the competitiveness of the area.

Of course the scheme represents a general portrait of MED space, mainly based on the characterisation of the area made in OTREMED phase 3.3, on an overview of main statistical data on the area and on the answers given to the questionnaires for the identification of territorial factors. Each MED territory could make its own SWOT analysis, placing differently the factors on the scheme.

The goal of this synthesis is not to draw an exhaustive picture of the MED space, rather to offer a general reference model according to which each region or territory could be positioned.



Some very general elements emerge from the picture of MED space taken through the SWOT analysis on territorial factors:

- MED space possesses a **strong territorial capital**, but it is often **underexploited** and **endangered** by emerging phenomena (sprawl, demographic dynamics, few investments in R&D etc.);
- its main weaknesses seem to be linked to its **governance system**, (in particular to its capacity of managing the effects produced by **interactions** among **different phenomena** and **different scales**), and to a **insufficient/non-homogeneous infrastructures** system;
- the main opportunities seem to rely on the capacity of elaborating new ways for **valorising the existing resources and capabilities**, in a sort of "**strategic bricolage**<sup>41</sup>", and of investing heavily on innovation (financially, but also culturally and socially);
- the two major threats are linked with the **demographic dynamics** (especially if compared with those of the southern part of the MED basin) and with the perpetuation of a **soil-consuming urbanisation model** that endangers the territorial capital and infrastructures and services efficiency;
- the emphasis on **planning** and **monitoring** tools seems to be the expression of the need for: 1) an **in-depth and continuous analysis** of ongoing dynamics; 2) a **strategic and integrated approach** towards development; 3) a **stronger coordination** among policies (both vertically and horizontally).

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<sup>41</sup> The world bricolage is used here as in Weick, 2001.

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