



Programme of the Catalan presidency of the Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean 2023-2025



Generalitat de Catalunya
Government of Catalonia



EUROREGIO
Pirineus Mediterrània
Pyrénées Méditerranée
Pirineos Mediterráneo

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Interior photos: extraordinary assembly to hand over the presidency of the Euroregion, Toulouse, 10 February 2023. Carole Delga, President of the Occitanie Region; Pere Aragonès i Garcia, President of the Government of Catalonia; Rosario Sánchez Grau, Minister of Finance and External Relations of the Government of the Balearic Islands, and Francesc Almendros Viladerrams, President of the Euroregional Youth Assembly.

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1. Strategic objectives

1.1. Euroregion Roadmap 2030

Implement the Euroregion Roadmap 2030 from a social perspective, ensuring the active participation of territorial stakeholders with an emphasis on the role of young people and an inclusive approach towards vulnerable groups, opening it up to citizens and with the will to intervene on issues with a real social impact in the territories of the Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean.

1.2. Alliances

Strengthen alliances to relaunch the Euroregion project in Europe, so it is seen as a decisive actor and a point of convergence between the Mediterranean macro-regional scale and the cross-border functional cooperation area.

1.3. Governance

Consolidate an agile and flexible system of governance that contributes to meeting the demands of a growing transnational institution, that helps to address the major challenges of its cross-border nature and that provides the organisational values of a committed Euroregional community with a transformative calling.

2. Pillars of the programme

2.1. Euroregion committed to the challenges of climate action

We want to respond to climate and environmental emergencies that have a major impact on biodiversity loss, and on sectors such as the primary and food sectors. This is why Euroregional collaboration on the green transition is so important. We will work on the capitalisation of emblematic projects in this field and we will ensure sustainability is present in the different areas of Euroregional action, with a particular focus to tourism.

Integrated Euroregional view on climate change and biodiversity

The integrated view on climate change and loss of diversity will be reinforced, taking into account the influence of the primary and food sectors. The approach to Euroregional actions will be aligned and coherent with the nexus between climate change, biodiversity, agriculture and food. The Euroregional social, economic and territorial development initiatives promoted will be conditional on the conservation of natural systems, i.e. the protection of biodiversity, water, forests and marine ecosystems. We want to address the challenges arising from climate change by acting from a bioregional perspective, going beyond a working approach that is centred on administrative boundaries. We will work to provide innovative solutions on the ground, addressing the most necessary transformations, with the mobilisation and involvement of local actors.

Value of a sustainable culture and the SDGs

We will drive the creation of projects that promote the values of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through actions in the field of youth and the Euroregional call for “Culture”. We will integrate the concept of sustainable culture and climate justice in the promotion of our Euroregional initiatives and projects.

Euroregional model of responsible and transformative tourism

We will work towards a Euroregional agreement for responsible, more sustainable and competitive tourism. To this end, it is essential that we generate a broad consensus between the different Euroregional social, political and economic agents in order to create a new tourism model that is environmentally responsible, socially fair, territorially balanced and reconnected with the elements that define our Euroregional identity. This Euroregional tourism model will be aligned with four major transformations: democratic, socio-economic, green and feminist.



2.2. The Euroregion: an innovation ecosystem in Southern Europe

We want to develop an innovative, resilient, circular and carbon-neutral economy, based on the digital transition and technological sovereignty. We will promote the Euroregional space as an area of innovation: green energy, training and research, business innovation clusters and agri-food ecosystems.

Euroregional space for green energy

Technological, economic and commercial development initiatives will be promoted to ensure that clean energies play an important role in the energy mix of the territories that make up the Euroregion. We will encourage partnerships that take into account the importance of hydrogen energy.

Euroregional university and research community

A mapping of student and research staff mobility, as well as collaborations in joint research and innovation projects, will be carried out in order to carry out a diagnosis of the situation and propose initiatives. We will propose the creation of thematic working groups, made up of experts in specific areas of common interest, to share knowledge, good

practices, develop policy positions and participate jointly in possible European projects (examples: teaching innovation, clean seas and oceans, mobility of research staff and students). We will promote the creation of a major meeting forum, which will take the form of a BlueMed conference for Euroregional universities and research centres. We will continue to offer Eurocampus grants, which encourage mobility among Erasmus+ students so they can study at a Euroregion institution.

Innovative and cooperative entrepreneurial ecosystem

We will carry out awareness-raising, training and skill-building activities for companies in the Euroregion to promote the protection of innovative multi-sectoral knowledge and technological sovereignty. We will launch initiatives aimed at exchanging good practices in the field of industrial and intellectual property, taking advantage of leading events in the member territories of the Euroregion. We will focus on strengthening the transition of priority sectors, such as the cultural sector, towards the digital world, promoting technological and digital innovation alternatives in their artistic expression. We will promote European innovation projects in the fields of agri-food, water and health. We will place special emphasis on the promotion of Euroregional cooperative projects, involving entities from the innovation ecosystems of the Euroregion.



2.3. A Euroregional project for citizens, with young people and for culture

We want to improve the inclusion of citizens by facilitating their participation through the promotion of our cultural and linguistic diversity. Vulnerable groups are a priority for the Catalan presidency of the Euroregion across the board, and young people make up the main driving force of this strategy through the promotion of the Euroregional Youth Assembly.

Cultural and linguistic dimension

We will continue to develop policies to support young people in the field of cultural and linguistic exchanges in the Euroregion, making the most of the tools provided by social media networks and new technologies. We will reinforce two of the most recent initiatives we have launched in the Euroregion: the Working Group on Languages and the awarding of grants in the Euroregional call for proposals from young people on the use of the Catalan and Occitan languages.

Social inclusion, vulnerability and “Culture”

We will promote the capitalisation of the results of one of the most emblematic initiatives of the Euroregion: the call for “Culture”. We will aim to continue working for universal access to culture, prioritising projects that are sensitive to inequality in all its dimensions. We

will support projects that integrate all aspects of social inclusion into the way they operate and that enable the creation of training and empowerment tools, as well as the opportunities offered by the digital world. We will focus particularly on groups at risk of social exclusion in a comprehensive and cross-cutting manner, especially young people.

A project at the service of citizens

We will ensure the catalytic effect of the Euroregional Youth Assembly and its impact as a platform for participation. We will launch actions in the field of climate change, as well as activities aimed at raising awareness and eliminating the stigma related to mental health issues among young people. We will promote spaces for the exchange of experiences and good practices at the Euroregional level.

We will also open up Euroregional cooperation in new areas, such as high-performance sport, and support cooperation between the economic and social committees of the Euroregion’s members.



2.4. Euroregion that is more visible within Europe and open to the Mediterranean

We will reinforce the importance of the Euroregion within the framework of the European Union. We will strengthen its influence and work to promote partnerships in the framework of transnational cooperation. We will consolidate its leadership in the detection of opportunities, promotion and management of European projects. We will position the Euroregion and its good practices in the framework of the Mediterranean macro-regional initiative.

A competitive Euroregional space for transnational cooperation

The Euroregion will coordinate a new coastal functional area within the Interreg VI-A Spain-France-Andorra (POCTEFA) cross-border cooperation programme, which will provide clear visibility at the European and cross-border level. Under the presidency of the Government of Catalonia, its governance will be agreed and its first meeting will be called. We will consolidate the Euroregion as a unique entity in the promotion of European projects with a Euroregional dimension. We will develop a strategy for the capitalisation of successfully completed European projects, with the aim of disseminating the results to the public. We are in a period of relaunching new interregional programmes

and, in this sense, we will work to position the Euroregion within the framework of the new alliances that will be established to be able to participate in these programmes.

Influence and presence in the European Union

We will increase the joint work of the delegations in Brussels of the three members of the Euroregion in order to consolidate their coordinated presence before EU institutions and to contribute to the drafting of European public policies. We will promote contacts at the highest level and work together with the European institutions. We will lead the creation of a new working committee focusing on European and Mediterranean issues. We will propose hosting the meeting of the European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) of Southern Europe, promoted by the EU Committee of the Regions, and we will propose as an objective of the meeting the study of cross-border problems and the proposal of practices to improve the perspective of the European Cross-Border Cooperation Mechanism. We will launch a study on the current situation of the Euroregion in the framework of European multi-level cooperation.



2.5. The Euroregion establishes a system of governance that promotes transformations

We will update the strategy for the internal functioning of the Euroregion in order to provide the secretariat, the technical working committees and the sectoral groups with strategic planning, instruments and resources to improve governance coordination processes. We will ensure the drafting of bi-annual deployment plans, the development of an impact monitoring system and make proposals in terms of consultation and variable geometry.

- In terms of improved planning, we will implement bi-annual action plans and monitoring and evaluation aimed at measuring the impact of Euroregional action.
- We will improve the systems of horizontal governance between the administrations involved, promote the participatory processes of the technical committees, working groups and the secretariat team, while ensuring the smooth functioning of the mechanisms for political consultation.
- We will promote the process of opening up to other territories by encouraging political and technical contacts in the different sectoral areas of work of the Euroregion.
- We will work together with the Euroregion's secretariat to identify the management challenges and resources arising from its transnational and cross-border nature, providing the spaces and instruments that promote the overcoming of these challenges.

