

The Euroregion, building a resilient future by 2030



The Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean

Building a resilient future by 2030

A territory of cooperation, innovative and open, the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean has been working for over 15 years to build bridges between our territories, to carry out joint projects for the benefit of citizens and to make their voice heard at the European level.

Structured as a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation since 2009, the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean has demonstrated its ability to mobilise the actors of its territory in key areas such as the economy, innovation, research, higher education, culture, tourism or the environment. The Generalitat of Catalonia, the Government of the Balearic Islands and the Region of Occitanie / Pyrenees-Mediterranean, by their shared history, values and ambitions, wish to continue to build through the Euroregion a reference cooperation pole at the crossroads of Europe and in the heart of the Mediterranean.



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In a context of crisis linked notably to climatic and environmental emergencies, our territories, particularly the most vulnerable, such as our islands and mountains, are among the places on the planet most affected by global warming; here, the climate is changing 20% faster than anywhere else on the globe. There is therefore an urgent need for joint action at all levels to combat climate change and its impacts.

Similarly, faced with the challenges of a new European policy and a new global economic and environmental context, the Euroregion must

act as a bulwark against withdrawal and the rise of populism throughout Europe. Indeed, the economic crisis is having a direct impact on us and is calling into question our current model. The Covid pandemic has swept away all the certainties we had and challenges our social and economic model. Entire sectors have been affected and must now rebuild and find short, medium and long-term solutions. Our Euroregion must propose innovative solutions and support its economy in this transition, while maintaining its dynamism. It is more necessary than ever to open up and seek common solutions to bring the European project to life within our territories, while involving the citizens.

To meet the growing and global challenges facing our regions, the Euroregion must act as it has since its creation, with a European and Mediterranean vision and show the full added value of its Euroregional action. It opens a new long-term stage and places its action in a global, European and Mediterranean framework which already offers a strong sense of direction through the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the European Green Deal, a Europe adapted to the digital age, as well as cohesion policies.

The Government of the Generalitat of Catalonia, the Government of the Balearic Islands and the Region of Occitanie / Pyrenees-Mediterranean define a new 2021-2030 roadmap, set at the Euroregional level, which should enable us to find common solutions to shared problems, to continue our action and to set an ambitious course, opening the way to resilience; a course capable of responding to the climatic, ecological, social, cultural, democratic and economic challenges.

With this roadmap to the horizon of 2030, the Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion wishes to amplify its role as a key player in the construction of an innovative, sustainable and supportive Europe of territories in which the principles of subsidiarity and multi-level governance are more important today than ever. It thus constitutes the guarantee of:

Learning through **exchange** between our institutions, citizens, companies and all the

actors in our territories,

Working together to create **a space for opportunity and innovation,**

Enhanced cooperation to promote a **socially-responsible and supportive Europe.**

To this end, the Euroregion has set itself a roadmap for 2021-2030 with 4 priorities and 12 strategic objectives:

1. Respond to climate and environmental emergencies and accelerate the ecological and energy transformation of our territories.

1.1 **By preserving and enhancing our natural heritage** and biodiversity,

1.2 **By preserving our resources,** especially water, which is particularly threatened by global change and human activities,

1.3 Helping to **achieve energy sovereignty** by 2030.

2. Promote an innovative and resilient, circular and carbon neutral economy, supported by the switchover to digital.

2.1 By investing in a **leading circular economy,**

2.2 Ensuring **balanced spatial planning,**

2.3 By supporting **the socio-economic actors in the strategic sectors** of our territory and promoting synergies between them.

3. Improving the inclusion of citizens by facilitating their participation and by promoting our cultural diversity.

3.1 Promoting Euroregional values and citizen participation,

3.2 Acting for more solidarity by supporting knowledge and exchanges between all operators in the territory,

3.3 Giving young people a key role in the Euroregion,

3.4 Promoting **cultural innovation** and Euroregional **cultural and linguistic diversity.**

4. Responding to the Mediterranean ambition of our territories.

4.1 Working to position **the Euroregion as an actor open to cooperation in the Mediterranean,**

4.2 By positioning itself as **a key player** on all the major European and Mediterranean strategic networks.



Photo of Castres

This 2021-2030 roadmap is therefore a unique opportunity to strengthen the Euroregion's European vocation, for the benefit of its inhabitants, and to gain recognition from the European Union and international institutions. The Euroregion's ambition is to become a real laboratory of innovative practices, with a long-term vision serving the implementation of European strategies within the framework of European programmes in the South of Europe and with a Mediterranean vocation.

While ensuring that its specific territorial characteristics are taken into account, the Euroregion is open to cooperating and joining forces with other regions with the partnership that best adapts to the interests and needs of each case. As far as Euroregions and other networks of a European and Mediterranean nature are concerned, the Euroregion wishes to cooperate with them in the search for innovative solutions to the challenges of tomorrow.

The Euroregion will implement its roadmap through the exchange of good practices, the fruition of joint actions with its members and the development of European projects as well as cooperation with other territories, networks and Euroregions.

This is the commitment of a whole Euroregion.

Carole Delga



President of the Euroregion

President of the
Region of Occitanie /
Pyrenees-Mediterranean

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President of the Generalitat
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Perpignan, June 2021

The Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean roadmap

Building a resilient future by 2030.

The Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean is therefore implementing an ambitious roadmap for its territory which should enable it to meet the climatic, ecological, economic, social and democratic challenges by 2030.

To achieve this, the Euroregion draws on an innovative and dynamic territory, which carries weight on the European scene thanks to a key strategic position due to its geographical location and wealth.



More than 15 million inhabitants in 2019 on 110,000 km².



A leading innovation, research and academic ecosystem, with 700,000 students, professors and researchers and leading European universities.



Over 35 land, marine and coastal natural areas, i.e. more than a quarter of its territory, and a large Natura 2000 network covering more than a quarter of its land areas.



Tir participation of all these actors in the main tools of European innovation with EUR 1.1 billion leveraged in the Horizon 2020 programme.



A first-class economic power with EUR 400 billion of GDP in 2019.



First-class European and international research infrastructures such as the European Marine Biological Resource Centre, the European Space Agency, the Alba Synchrotron, the Mare Nostrum supercomputer, the ITER coordination centre, the Balearic Islands coastal observation system, etc.

This Euroregional roadmap 2021-2030 is broken down into multi-annual action plans in which the necessary financial and human resources, as well as the expected results, are defined in order to achieve the set objectives. This roadmap should enable the Euroregion to strengthen its position on a European and Mediterranean scale. It also proposes a new governance that integrates Euroregional economic actors and citizens in this reflection.

The Euroregion is focusing its actions until 2030 on 4 priority focuses, 12 strategic objectives and 31 operational objectives.

1.

Respond to climate and environmental emergencies and accelerate the ecological and energy transformation of our territories.



Rich in varied landscapes and climates, the Euroregion is a territory made up of preserved but fragile natural spaces and resources, which must accelerate its ecological transition to respond to the climate and ecological crises.

1. Respond to climate and environmental emergencies and accelerate the ecological and energy transformation of our territories.

Strategic and operational objectives

1.1 Preserve and enhance our natural heritage and biodiversity.

The Euroregion is a territory that must preserve its biodiversity, in order to meet the international objectives set by the United Nations in relation to the sustainable development goals (SDGs), as well as those set by the European Union's Green Deal and the European Biodiversity Strategy. The Euroregion must also endeavour to enhance its natural heritage by making its population, and young people in particular, aware of its wealth and fragility.

1.1.1 Intensifying the preservation and restoration of ecosystems, protecting threatened species and areas (terrestrial and marine waters, marine and coastal areas, mountain areas), combating the collapse of biodiversity.

1.1.2 By strengthening knowledge production, Euroregional research networks and public awareness of biodiversity.



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1.2 Preserve our resources.

The preservation of common assets and more specifically water resources, which are particularly threatened by global change and human activities, is a Euroregional priority.

1.2.1 Acting on the management of water resources, focusing on water saving, sustainable water management and improving water quality.

1.2.2 By supporting local agricultural, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry production in their necessary adaptation to climate change.

1.2.3 By supporting farmers, fishermen, foresters and the entire food production and forestry chain in transforming their practices towards sustainable, fair, supportive and environmentally friendly practices.

1.3 Help to achieve energy sovereignty.

The Euroregion wants to contribute to achieving energy sovereignty by 2030 for its territory.

1.3.1 Facilitating cooperation between pilot projects for renewable energy production in its territory.

1.3.2 Supporting citizens' actions for the production and consumption of local renewable energy.

1.3.3 Promoting a fair transition for citizens, by reducing energy consumption mainly in homes, through innovations.

2.

Promote an innovative and resilient, circular and carbon neutral economy, supported by the switchover to digital.



The Euroregion wants to build a resilient and dynamic economy by accelerating the transition to a circular, carbon-neutral economy, supported by the switchover to digital, and more globally through innovation.

2. Promote an innovative and resilient, circular and carbon neutral economy, supported by the switchover to digital.

Strategic and operational objectives

2.1 Invest in a leading circular economy.

The priorities of the European Union's Green Deal, as well as Covid's main post-crisis investments, including the Next Generation EU plan, focus in particular on the circular economy and its ability to meet the challenges of sustainable development. They encourage us to reduce our footprint and move towards carbon neutrality.

2.1.1 Extending the value of the resources produced by reducing waste production.

2.1.2 Giving priority to the overall management of the water cycle, integrating its management, preservation and quality.

2.2 Ensure balanced spatial planning.

The attractiveness of the Euroregion lies in its capacity to promote harmonious, complementary development between its different components, coastal and inland, mountain, island and mainland, urban and rural. Its role as an innovative, sustainable territory requires this right balance. It must also ensure that its economic wealth linked to the sea is sustainably maintained.

2.2.1 By favouring an integrated and balanced management of the territory, favouring the links between rural and urban areas, and linking its inland areas, its mountain areas, its coastline and its islands.

2.2.2 Focusing its efforts on key sectors of the responsible blue economy such as marine production, blue biotechnology, coastal knowledge and management, renewable energies, among others, green hydrogen.

2.3 Supporting the socio-economic actors in the strategic sectors of our territory by promoting synergies between them.

The Euroregion gives priority to three strategic sectors, bio-economy, health and tourism, which are those identified in the Euroregional strategy for smart specialisation. The health and economic crisis has highlighted the most fragile sectors and those essential to our future. The Euroregion must support the socio-economic actors of our territory and foster synergies in these key sectors.

2.3.1 By supporting the bio-economy, the Euroregion optimises the use and efficient management of its natural resources and renewable raw materials.

2.3.2 By cooperating in the health sector based, among other things, on a new silver economy (economy of the elderly) around e-health, bio-health, health and biodiversity initiatives, etc.

2.3.3 By transforming the Euroregion into a healthy, safe, sustainable and dynamic tourist destination.



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3.

Improving the inclusion of citizens by facilitating their participation and by promoting our cultural diversity.



Strengthening citizen participation is a priority for the Euroregion. The aim is to put citizens at the heart of the Euroregional project in order to allow them to participate fully and thus promote the common values that animate the member regions.

The Euroregion also wishes to highlight its cultural diversity and all its cultural and innovative sectors by promoting a Mediterranean Euroregional identity.

3. Improving the inclusion of citizens by facilitating their participation and by promoting our cultural diversity.

Strategic and operational objectives

3.1 Promote Euroregional values and citizen participation.

The Euroregion is now trying to involve more citizens both in its actions and in the definition of part of its cooperation policy and priority projects.

3.1.1 Creating participatory projects to encourage the participation of citizens, especially young people.

3.1.2 Acting for real equality between women and men.

3.1.3 Disseminating European values to the citizens of the Euroregion through communication adapted to the general public.

3.1.4 By making its action and the added value of European territorial cooperation for its territories known to the European Union and to European and Mediterranean networks.

3.2 Acting for more solidarity, by supporting knowledge and exchanges.

Through its public policies, the Euroregion must act for more solidarity by supporting knowledge and exchanges between all the agents of the territory.

3.2.1 By acting for more solidarity, in particular by encouraging openness, mutual knowledge against fears and withdrawal, by promoting interculturality and diversity.

3.2.2 Promoting knowledge and exchange between governments, citizens, associations, socio-economic actors, regional economic and social committees of the Euroregion.

3.2.3 Encouraging new ways of creating cohesion through culture and the promotion of new forms of entrepreneurship such as in the social and solidarity economy.

3.3 Giving young people a key role in the Euroregion.

The Euroregion gives priority to young people because they are the future of our territory. The Euroregion therefore wishes to give them a prominent place.

3.3.1 Intensifying its mobility policy and promoting exchanges and mobility for students, young apprentices, young people in training and high school students.

3.3.2 Supporting its universities for more cooperation at European level and also to prepare students and young researchers for the new challenges of training, and encouraging them to cooperate with each other at European level.

3.3.3 Encouraging cooperation between young entrepreneurs and employment opportunities for young people by promoting internship opportunities in companies in the Euroregion.

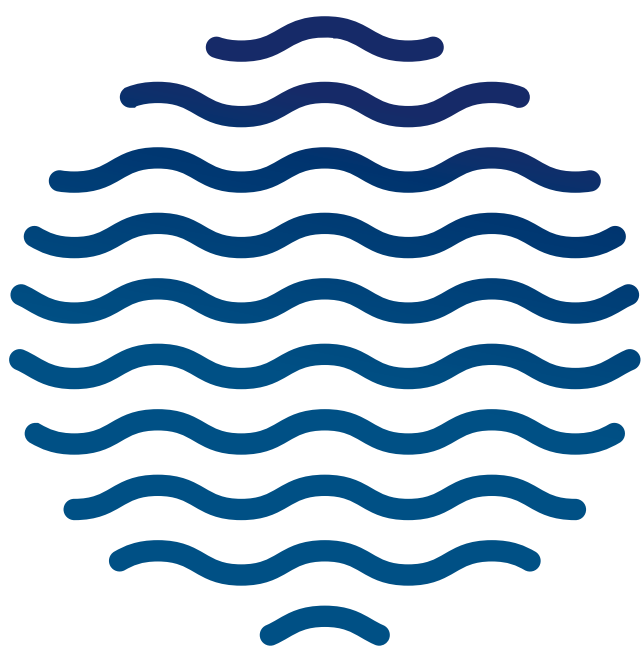
3.4 Promote cultural innovation and Euroregional cultural and linguistic diversity.

To ensure the development of its citizens, the Euroregion supports the cultural sector in order to improve the dissemination and knowledge of our arts and artists. The Euroregion also favours its languages, which are the vehicle of its knowledge and history. Finally, the Euroregion is enriched by other cultures to be even more attractive and inclusive.

3.4.1 Supporting Euroregional creative industries, artistic creation and its digitalisation; all forms of culture, as well as the Euroregional tangible and intangible heritage.

3.4.2 Stimulating practice and exchange between young people around Euroregional languages and cultures and facilitating social integration and exchange through cultural and linguistic diversity.

4. Respond to the Mediterranean ambition of our territories.



The territories of the Euroregion by their geographical position have always been turned towards the Mediterranean. With this roadmap, this economic, environmental, cultural and social basin, vital for the Euroregion, must become the priority of the Euroregional political action.

4. Respond to the Mediterranean ambition of our territories.

Strategic and operational objectives

4.1 Situate the Euroregion as an actor open to cooperation in the Mediterranean.

The Euroregion is positioning itself on all its priorities in the Mediterranean in order to become a reference player at the crossroads of Europe and in the North-West of the Mediterranean in particular.

4.1.1 By consolidating its territorial scope and deepening its partnerships with land and island territories in the Mediterranean that share our common values.

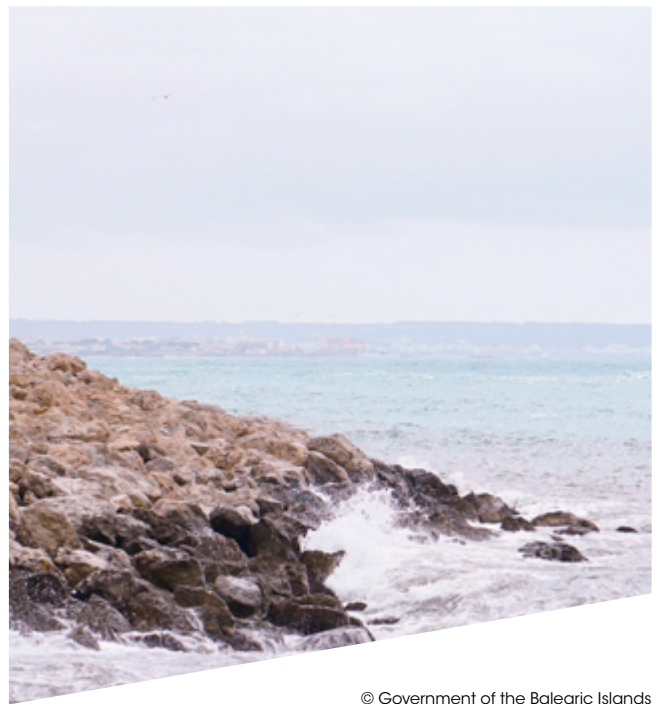
4.1.2 Furthermore, the Euroregion aims to be a territory open to other cultures and other territories. It wishes to share its history but also to integrate new forms of knowledge and other cultural approaches.

4.2 Position itself as a key actor in all the major European and Mediterranean strategic networks.

In order to amplify its action and to be even more visible, the Euroregion participates and is a driving force in the major networks of territories at the Mediterranean and European levels.

4.2.1 By increasing its presence on the major European political issues and more particularly in the Mediterranean, notably within the MedCoopAlliance.

4.2.2 By participating in the governance of major European territorial cooperation and neighbourhood policy programmes.



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