
IGU International Geographical Union

UGI Union Géographique Internationale

**THE MEDITERRANEAN RENAISSANCE
LA RENAISSANCE DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE**

An IGU programme for the Mediterranean Human Development
Un programme de l'UGI pour le développement humain de la Méditerranée

by

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IGU President — Président de l'UGI

Programme Design # 1 — September 2004

Why

In its 2004-2008 term, the IGU will focus on the Mediterranean region from many respects, particularly in a view to contribute to the scientific preparation of the 2008 International Geographical Congress, which will be held in Tunis.

What

The Mediterranean Renaissance Programme (MRP) is meant as a container of initiatives that, from the geographical perspective, may improve the understanding of the Mediterranean cultural, economic and ecological contexts, in a view of contributing to the human development of the region.

How

- To collaborate with the MRP, please contact the co-ordinator, Adalberto Vallega (a.vallega@iol.it).
- To bring oneself up to date on the MRP implementation, please go to <http://www.igu-net.org>

Part 1

PROGRAMME GOALS

The IGU perspective

During the 2000-2004 term the IGU has included the Mediterranean in its operations fields by adopting three undertakings:

1. *The Mediterranean Network* — In 2001, the Mediterranean Network (MN) was established as a component of an *had hoc* strategy of the IGU aimed at triggering collaboration on research and education among geographers from the individual regions of the world.
2. *The Euro-Arab NC network* — In 2003 the individual members of the IGU Executive Committee (EC) were appointed to keep in touch with the National Committees (NCs) from the various regions of the world. In that context, a sort of Euro-Arab region was identified, extending from the southern Europe to the African and Asia sides of the Mediterranean, and to the Arab peninsula.
3. *The 2008 and 2010 events* — The Mediterranean was implicitly assumed as an important reference area of the 2008 International Geographical Congress (IGC) in Tunis, and the focus of the 2010 IGU Regional Conference (RC) in Tel Aviv.

Moving from this basis, a far-reaching programme may be designed, which moves from the role that the Mediterranean has played in the history of mankind and it focuses on the role that this region may play in the globalisation era. In this perspectives, the above-mentioned 2008 and 2010 IGU events may be considered as the chief steps of a unique scientific pathway, involving scientific discussions, publications, exhibitions, and other initiatives. The *raison d'être* of the programme is due to the central role that the Mediterranean has played in the world and in the civilisation development. The Neolithic civilisations had some peculiar manifestations in this region. Urban life, writing systems, advanced mathematics, philosophy, legal systems, and other basis of modern life were born here. Moreover, the three monotheistic religions, all rooted in the Abraham's vision of the world and transcendence, had here their cradle. Moving from this basis, and entering then the modernity, the Mediterranean has acquired a double role: an ontological role, because some of the political stresses affecting the world have their fulcrum in this space; a semiotic role, because, to some extent, the intellectual stress concerned with the future of this basin is the metaphor of the intellectual stress about the role of civilisations and cultures which has spread throughout the world. As a result, investigating the Mediterranean leads to make representations of the world, to building up scenarios of the Mediterranean leads to sketch scenarios of the world, and to intensify efforts for driving the Mediterranean towards human development leads to contribute to the human development of the whole world.

From this perspective, science is triggered to play a constructive role, including the design of futures of the Mediterranean mirroring some universal values of mankind. In other words, the best role of science would consist of designing a Mediterranean Renaissance, and the role of geography would consist of exploring the spatial manifestations of the Mediterranean processes that

could be concerned with this prospect. This geography's role may be operated with a constructive spirit, namely in a view of concentrating on those positive approaches, initiatives, events and any other processes and aspects that may contribute to strengthen the intra-Mediterranean collaboration, and the position of the Mediterranean in the construction of a better world. This is the reason why it is proposed the IGU programme be named

The Mediterranean Renaissance programme (MRP)
Le Programme Renaissance de la Méditerranée (PRM)

The programme reference framework

As far as the present historical context is concerned, it may be shared that the Mediterranean has passed through three phases:

First phase, the 1960s and 1970s — The environmental issues acquired relevance to the point that the Mediterranean became one of the main foci of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through the design and adoption of the Mediterranean Action Plan (1975) and the Convention on the Protection of the Mediterranean against Pollution (1976). All the Mediterranean countries were co-operating with dealing with environmental issues although some of these were conflicting for political and economic reasons. Meanwhile the region had a cardinal role in the cold war.

Second phase, the 1980s and 1990s— The Mediterranean was perceived as a basin deeply affected by the consequences of climatic change. In that context, the ecological concern, according to which increasing attention had to be attributed to ecosystems, acquired increasing relevance, and the establishment of protected areas spread out. As a result of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, 1992), the Mediterranean became the first part of the world to be concerned with approaches aimed at pursuing sustainable development on the regional scale. This was due to the adoption of the 1996 Convention on the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean Sea, and the contemporary convening of the Mediterranean Action Plan II. As regards the geopolitical conditions, this phase was marked by the decline of cold war and the diffusion of local conflicts.

Third stage, 2001 onwards — The international terrorism, based on trans-national networks and strategies, was born, assuming the Mediterranean region as a main geographical arena. Meanwhile, for many reasons, the role of cultures in the world development has acquired increasing relevance, and the Mediterranean has become the geographical areas where this role not only has acquired peculiar relevance but also it has led to foresee some possible targets towards which some chief worldwide processes may drive.

Moving from this vision, the problématique of the Mediterranean may be regarded as consisting of prospects and issues marked by a double semiotic sense: on the one hand, an intrinsic sense, since they refer the processes concerning the Mediterranean region, namely a geographical space extending from Gibraltar to the Sea of Azov and closely interrelated with the Red Sea and Persian Gulf; on the other and, an extrinsic sense, since they are influencing the routes along which the modern world is sailing. Tentatively, the breakdown of questions and subjects of geographical relevance are presented in Annex 1 (*The design of the Mediterranean problématique*).

As this problématique has evolved, also the institutional framework, including inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations operating on the global and regional scales, has been enriched to the point of constituting an unprecedented basis of reference for IGU and, *sensu lato*, for the scientific world as a whole. The principal components of this framework are presented in Annex 2 (*The Institutional reference framework*). In this respect, as can be seen by Annex 3 (*The potential role of IGU bodies*), the network of the IGU Commissions and Task Forces is involved in such an ample topical arena as to be able to give useful and extended contributions to inter- and non-governmental organisations.

Part II PROGRAMME DESIGN

The geographical work

As regards the programme design, the key question to deal with refers what kind of work may optimise the role and visibility of geography. In this regards, the MRP design is based on the presupposition that, except for some individual occasions, the cardinal need does not consist of carrying out more investigations on the Mediterranean, but *it consists of moving from the available outcomes of investigations, namely from the existing framework of assessment, to berth to the presentation of the Mediterranean context, issues and prospects from the MRP perspective.*

In this view, the programme implementation may consist of:

1. providing the *geographical fundamentals* for the discussions about global change, globalisation, human development, cultural identities, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, inter-cultural co-operation, and other discourses concerning the MRP;
2. triggering *scientific discussions*, with special reference to those marked by inter-disciplinary perspectives;
3. operating *communication with the public*, in such a way as to disseminate and strengthen the geographical knowledge of the region;

4. building up *maps and multi-media representations*, in that bearing in mind the increasing role of cyber-representations.

Programme features

The programme is meant as flexible since it will include only those initiatives and products that the IGU bodies (Commissions and Task Forces), the joint programmes (with ICSU, ISSC, UN, etc.), and the programme partners and sponsors will be able to carry out or to fund.

Two basic components

As a preliminary approach, the programme design includes two main components.

First component: *Cultural heritage and sustainable development* — Issues concerned with the protection and sustainable use of the Mediterranean cultural heritage are expected to be discussed. Some cardinal consequences of globalisation, the peculiarities of local development, food and health security, and others, are investigated and discussed *vis-à-vis* the cultural heritage of the individual parts of the Mediterranean region, with the final aim of approaching the current issues and prospects with an appropriate consideration of cultural diversity. *Inter alia*, this approach would lead to focus on the linkage between cultural and biological diversities.

Second component: *Cultural identities and human development* — Issues concerned with the safeguard of cultural identities of places and peoples are expected to be discussed. In this framework, the geographical evolution of the Mediterranean region, languages, spiritual manifestations, and any other feature marking cultural identities, merit being emphasised with the final aim of focusing on the prospect of implementing inter-cultural communication in the region, as well as communication between the Mediterranean and extra-Mediterranean cultures. Therefore the background concept of human development, as has been presented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), would be usefully assumed as the core of this programme component.

Details may be found in Annex 1 (*Subject areas*).

Geographical coverage

As is well known, the Mediterranean Sea is a part of a tectonic region, which is the resulting space of the Thetys evolution. This space extends from the Gibraltar strait to the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. The two main basins, i.e. the Mediterranean Sea and the Black

Sea, together with many coastal regions and islands, have been marked by similar stress, particularly volcanism and seismicity, similar issues, particularly extreme events and needs for ecological protection, and economic prospects, such as tourism implementation.

These features lead to presume that geographical coverage of the MRP may be concerned with the Mediterranean region, as above mentioned.

Key subjects

As a preliminary approach, the framework of subject areas, presented in Annex 1 (*The design of the Mediterranean problématique*), may be assumed as the topical arena of the programme.

Users

The potential users of the programme may be essentially found in the following operational fields:

- *Media operators*, including TV, magazines, newspapers, websites, in order to disseminate the awareness of the Mediterranean as an arena where strategies to deal with crucial needs of humankind may be experimented.
- *Social groups*, in order to increase their awareness of the inter-cultural dialogue and co-operation as universal values which the Mediterranean civilisation may contribute to strengthen and expand;
- *Intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations*, in order to contribute to the building up of useful conditions for the human development of the region;
- *Governmental organisations*, in order to assist strategy and actions aiming at strengthening and expanding universal values of peace and co-operation;

Kinds of product

Bearing in mind that the programme does not aim at making research per se but rather at processing existing scientific products, and to frame them in the discussions of the Mediterranean Renaissance, an ample range of actions may be considered including:

Discussions — discussions of various kind, tailored to the occasions that will solidify over time, may be convened, including discussions lodged in websites, TV programmes, magazines and newspapers, schools and universities, etc.;

Events — a series of small events, to various extent linked with the 2008 IGU Congress and the 2010 IGU Conference, may be convened to focus on individual subjects, or on the issues and prospects marking the individual areas;

Exhibitions — manifestations focusing on the Mediterranean cultures, e.g. giving an overview of the UNESCO Mediterranean cultural landscapes, will be welcome;

Publications — books, special issues of journals and articles may come out;

E-materials — may circulate in a set of websites in such a way as to form a network supporting the MRP;

Olympiads — special editions of geographical Olympiads may be convened with the aim of solidifying the awareness of the Mediterranean cultural diversity and identities, and its role in strengthening universal values, hopefully involving students from various cultural contexts;

Prizes — persons who have played a leading role from the perspective of the Mediterranean Renaissance may be awarded.

An ample part of the above-mentioned initiatives could be conveyed to an *Atlas of the Mediterranean Renaissance*, meant as a multi-media products (maps, photos, texts, etc.), which could be available in the e-format and it could be implemented as the programme goes on.

Interaction with the 2008 IGC

The MRP is essentially linked to the 2008 Tunis IGC. From the teleological point of view this linkage is due to the circumstance that both the IGC and the MRP assume sustainable development, human development, inter-cultural and scientific communication as cardinal points. Hence, the MRP may be regarded as a basic arena to catalyse discussions on the subject areas of the 2008 IGC, and to promote the participation of scientists in that event. From the organisational point of view, these two initiatives may be regarded as independent, parallel and co-ordinated. As a matter of fact, the MRP may be also concerned with subject areas that are non included in the scientific design of the 2008 IGC, and on the other hand the IGC will lodge scientific discussions which will not be concerned with the Mediterranean. Nevertheless, the MRP is expected to play a crucial role to optimise the scientific preparation of the IGC. In

this respect, it could acquire an experimental role because for the first time in the history of IGU a broad initiative is convened to catalyse four year discussions in a view of optimising the scientific success of a IGC or Regional Conference.

From the operational point of view, co-ordination between the MRP and the 2008 IGC could be achieved by including a representative of the IGC Organising Committee in the Steering Committee of the MRP.

Role of the Mediterranean Network

By its design, the MRP embraces subject areas that are not included in the agenda of the Mediterranean Network. Moreover, it is expected to include initiatives that may be far from the organisational endowment and the interest of the Mediterranean Network. Nevertheless, the Mediterranean Network is expected to deal with a range of subject areas — from desertification to freshwater management — that may be regarded as key points of the discussions expected in the framework of the MRP. Hence, this IGU network merits being regarded as essential for the success of the MRP. For these reasons, the co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Network is included in the Steering Committee of the MRP.

Organisation

The programme organisation includes:

- The *Programme Co-ordinator* , President of IGU;
- The *Programme Steering Committee*, including:
 - The programme co-ordinator
 - The Secretary-General of UGU
 - The Director of the Home of Geography
 - The co-ordinator or the IGU Mediterranean Network
 - The Chairperson of the IGU Commission on Applied Geography
 - A member of the 2008 IGC Organising Committee
- The *Programme Secretariat* — This body will operate the decisions of the Programme Steering Committee, and the work of the Programme Co-ordinator. It will be lodged in Rome, Home of Geography:

MRP Secretariat

IGU Home of Geography/ UGI, Maison de la Géographie
Via della Navicella 12
Palazzetto Mattei, Villa Celimontana
00184, Rome, Italy
Phone: ++39-06-77591183
Fax ++39-06-77078827
E-mail: mrp@homeofgeography.org
URL: <http://www.homeofgeography.org>

- The *Programme convenors* — The individual initiatives, which the programme will consist of, will be under the responsibility of individual convenors, who will be appointed by the Programme Steering Committee. The headquarters of the projects are to be located in the convenors' institutions.

Finance

No IGU financial support will be available for the individual projects.

Initial steps

1. *Activation of a webpage* — The web page *Mediterranean Renaissance programme* will be activated within the IGU website. It will include the presentation of the programme, the call for collaboration, and other relevant materials.
2. *How to participate in the programme* — Those IGU and extra -IGU bodies that are interested in convening initiatives in the MRP framework, or to include already undertaken initiatives in this framework, are cordially invited to contact the Programme co-ordinator:

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3. *References to the MRP* — The documents pertaining to initiatives convened in the MRP framework should include a proper reference to the:

IGU International Geographical Union — Union Géographique Internationale UGI

The Mediterranean Renaissance programme (MRP)

Le Programme Renaissance de la Méditerranée (PMR)

Where possible, the following reference to the Programme Secretariat is expected to be included:

MRP Secretariat: IGU Home of Geography/ UGI, Maison de la Géographie

Via della Navicella 12

Palazzetto Mattei, Villa Celimontana

00184, Rome, Italy

Phone: ++39-06-77591183; Fax ++39-06-77078827

E-mail: mrp@homeofgeography.org; URL: <http://www.homeofgeography.org>

Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | |
|--------|---|
| BP | Blue Plan |
| C | Commission |
| CIS | Commonwealth of Independent States |
| EC | Executive Committee |
| EEC | European Economic Community |
| EU | European Union |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization |
| ICSU | International Council for Science * |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agriculture Development |
| IGC | International Geographical Congress |
| IGU | International Geographical Union |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change |
| ISSC | International Social Science Council |
| MAP | Mediterranean Action Plan |
| MDGs | Millennium Declaration Goals |
| MFTZ | Mediterranean Free Trade Zone |
| MN | Mediterranean Network |
| NC | National Committee |
| PAP | Priority Actions Plan |
| RAC | Regional Activity Centre |
| RG | Regional Conference |
| RSP | Regional Seas Programme |
| SPA | Specially Protected Areas |
| TF | Task Force |
| UNCED | United Nations Conference on Environment and Development |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNIMED | Université de la Méditerranée |
| WCS | World Conference on Science |

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|-----|---------------------------|
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WHL | World Heritage List |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

* Former International Council for Scientific Unions

ANNEXES

Annex 1

The design of the Mediterranean problématique

As mentioned in Section *Two basic components*, the MRP may be thought of as consisting of two main components, respectively concerned with i) cultural heritage and sustainable development, and ii) cultural identities and human development. Tentatively, the following topical breakdown may be considered.

| Cardinal questions | Subject areas | Subjects of geographical relevance |
|--|----------------------|---|
| <i>Component 1 — Cultural heritage and sustainable development</i> | | |
| How to deal with climate change and its impacts | Global change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sea-level rise and subsequent impacts on coastal areas ▪ Changes in local ecosystems, in terms of trophic webs and biomes ▪ Changes on ground and aquifer circulation, and impacts on land uses and food systems ▪ Role of indigenous fresh water management ▪ Desertification and draught ▪ Extreme events |
| How to maximise benefits on the regional scale | Globalisation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indigenous rural systems, spreading out of plantations, and genetic-treated cultivations ▪ Role of indigenous cultivation techniques in local food systems ▪ Role of tourism in local economic systems ▪ Human mobility and social and cultural changes ▪ Changing role of Mediterranean seaports in a global maritime transportation system ▪ Local systems' reactivity towards globalisation processes ▪ Economic collaboration between the Northern and Southern sides of the Mediterranean (North-South interaction), including the establishment of a Free Trade Zone ▪ Economic collaboration between the Northern and Eastern sides of the Mediterranean (North-East interaction) ▪ Economic collaboration between Maghreb and Mashrek (South-South interaction) |
| <i>Component 2 — Cultural identities and sustainable development</i> | | |
| How to protect , exploit and value tangible cultures | Tangible cultures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mediterranean cities as cultural places ▪ Archaeological, including underwater, cultural heritage ▪ Tangible features of landscapes |

| | | |
|---|---------------------|--|
| How intangible culture may a development focus | Intangible cultures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cultural landscapes ▪ Local languages <i>vis-à-vis</i> globalisation processes in language ▪ Role of religions <i>vis-à-vis</i> human development ▪ Role of literature, music, food systems, and other peculiar aspects of cultural identities ▪ Interaction between cultural and natural diversity (biocultural diversity) ▪ The Mediterranean mosaic of civilisations |
| How to pursue the 2000 Millennium Development Goals in a culturally- and socially differentiated region | Human development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human conditions of endangered social groups, including women human development ▪ Diasporas and exoduses ▪ Diffusion of multi-ethnic communities and subsequent social needs ▪ Social impacts from illegal trade (drug, weapons, children, slavery) ▪ Technology Information divide in the Mediterranean |

This extended concern requires co-operation to be implemented at two levels. First, co-operation between sciences, particularly between Nature's and Society's sciences in order to operate those inter-sciplinarity, holistic approaches that were strongly recommended by the 1999 World Conference on Science (WCS). Secondly, co-operation between science and policy, in order to put the outcomes of investigations and speculations into effect. As regards the latter perspective, attentions shifts to the configuration and the role of the institutional framework in the Mediterranean.

Annex 2

The Institutional reference framework

The Mediterranean institutional framework has been marked by two distinct processes, respectively handled by the UN systems and the European Economic Community (EEC)/European Union (EU).

The role of the UN in the Mediterranean assumed peculiar features in 1975, when the *Mediterranean Action Plan* (MAP) was adopted as the first operational step of the Regional Seas Programme (RSP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). That Plan, which was initially concerned with the environmental protection in this basin, in 1976 was followed by the *Convention on the Protection of the Mediterranean against Pollution*, which was agreed by all the Mediterranean countries as a conclusion of a regional Conference held in Barcelona (Spain). Two decades later, the co-operation in the framework of the MAP/Barcelona Convention system was widened by the adoption of the Mediterranean Action Plan II and the *Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean Sea*. According to this newly-designed legal tool, the Mediterranean countries started co-operating also in the economic and social fields with the aim of pursuing sustainable development on a regional basis.

As a result of this long run and intense process, at the present time the UN institutional framework embraces the MAP Headquarters in Athens (Greece) and a number of Regional Activity Centres (RACs), located in various countries of the region. These centres may be regarded as institutions with a huge collaboration potential with the IGU. In particular, these perspectives may be accredited to the Specially Protected Areas (SPA, Tunis), the Priority Actions Plan (PAP/RAC, Split, Croatia), and the Blue Plan (BP/RAC, Sophia Antipolis, France).

During the Nineties, the UN decided to convene an Action Plan for the Black Sea/Sea of Azov area. The cardinal goal would be to encourage co-operation between the local countries for mitigating ecological impacts from human pressure, but the final goal could consist of building up a broad co-operation, embracing the economic and social fields. As this initiative goes ahead, the project of establishing effective linkage between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea actions plans will solidify.

As is well known, in 2001 the IGU established two distinct regional networks, respectively concerned with the Mediterranean and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). These two newly-established bodies could join in contributing to the integration between the two UN action plans.

At least two additional organisations have largely contributed to the Mediterranean collaboration.

The FAO has convened initiatives concerned with the management of marine biomass and agriculture, therefore contributing to the collaboration between developing and developed countries in a view of implementing food security.

The UNESCO has included a number of Mediterranean sites and cultural landscapes in the World Heritage List (WHL) and, more recently, it has convened a plan for the protection of the Mediterranean intangible cultures.

In Barcelona, 1996, just after the conclusion of the UN meeting which led to the adoption of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean Sea, the Euromediterranean conference was held with the aim of discussing how the EU could establish effective collaboration with the African and Asian Mediterranean sides. These discussions led to adopt a range of background goals and operational criteria. As regards the scientific interest of IGU, the following directions are worthy of consideration:

1. in the framework of the North-South economic co-operation, the establishment of the Mediterranean Free Trade Zone (M FTZ) would be expected in the course of the present decade. Essentially, it should involve the interaction between the EU and the Maghreb area;
2. a set of international infrastructures, including pipelines, is expected to be built up in order to strengthen links along the west-east direction, namely between the Mashrek and Maghreb, and along the South-North direction, namely between the Maghreb and the European side;
3. apart from the two above-mentioned fields, the Mediterranean collaboration has been increasingly regarded as not involving the governmental organisations, but rather the so-called stakeholders, namely local institutions and organisations, with the final aim of encouraging the establishment of

Mediterranean networks. This approach has been successful, because since 1996 an ample number of networks has been established involving municipalities, regional authorities, seaport authorities, and NGOs of various kind. As regards the IGU's interest, two networks of universities were established, namely the Universités de la Méditerranée (Unimed), and the Thethys networks.

Annex 3

The potential role of IGU bodies

Investigations on the Mediterranean are expected to lead to:

- discussing prospects and issues concerning the region as a whole
- exploring useful case studies that may help the discussion of subject concerning the regional scale
- investigating the relationships between the Mediterranean and other world's regions
- designing how the Mediterranean is perceived and represented from outside
- designing how the world is perceived and represented in the Mediterranean cultural contexts

| IGU research body | Potential broad subject areas | Possible foci on the Mediterranean | Possible UN collaborating organisations |
|---|--|---|--|
| | | <i>Commissions</i> | |
| C04.01 — Applied Geography | Globalisation Sustainable development | To contribute to the understanding of sustainable development-concerned issues | This Commission has solid expertise in promoting interaction with the UN organisations. |
| C04.02 — Arid Lands, Humankind, and Environment | Desertification Aridation | To discuss how local communities may deal with desertification by using their traditional land use patterns and water management techniques | Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) UN Development Programme Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) |
| C04.03 — Biogeography and Biodiversity | Biological diversity Bio-diversification | To focus on changes in biomes, and relevant biological diversity, provoked by climate change and human pressure | Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), Priority Actions Programme (PAP) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) |
| C04.04 — Climatology | Climate change | To discuss how human communities may deal with the impacts from climate change | Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) |
| C04.05 — Coastal Systems | Coastal change Coastal environment Coastal cultural heritage | To co-operate with the <i>Oceans 21</i> programme (see below) | Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), Priority Actions Programme (PAP) |

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| C04.07 — Cultural Approach in Geography | Cultures Landscapes Cultural heritage | To discuss of how the inter-cultural communication may improve in the Mediterranean, and human communities may safeguard their cultural identities | United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) |
| C04.08 — Diversity in Mountain Systems | Climate change Environmental change Mountain uses | To focus on changes in mountain environment with specific focus on biological diversity and consequences of human pressure, including forest fires | United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), Priority Actions Programme (PAP) |
| C04.09 — Dynamics of Economic Spaces | Globalisation Local systems | To discuss how local communities may take the best advantages from globalisation without endangering their cultural identities | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) |
| C04.10 — Environment evolution | Climate change Environmental changes | To focus on the main environmental consequences of climate change and human pressure on the local environments, with special focus on water management and health security | United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) |
| C04.11 — Gender and Geography | Human development Cultural heritage | To discuss how the gender human development and the gender empowerment has evolved, and what targets this evolution may lead | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) |
| C04.12 — Geographical Education | Sustainable development Human development | To focus on the educational systems , putting them in relation to the cultural contexts, and designing how co-operation may improve in the field | United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) |
| C04.15 — Geography of the Information Society | Globalisation Local systems | To discuss how the evolution of information systems in the region has influenced the cultural and political relationship. To build up scenarios in the field | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) |
| C04.16 — Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change | Globalisation | To discuss how tourism and recreational uses have increased their relevance to the economic development of the Mediterranean human communities without endangering their cultural identity | No specific organisation |
| C04.17 — Geomorphic Challenges for the 21st Century | Global change Environmental changes | To discuss the impact of climate change on the natural Mediterranean landscapes, and how the local communities may successfully face this process | Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) |
| C04.18 — Global Change and Human Mobility | Globalisation Human development | To discuss how human mobility has evolved, and how it is going to provoke changes in cultural contexts | No specific organisation |

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| C04.19 — Hazards and Risks | Climate change | To discuss how climate change may influence natural disasters and extreme events in the region, and how the local communities have reacted | Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) |
| C04.20 — Health and Environment | Human development Cultures | To discuss how the health conditions, with specific reference to endangered communities, have evolved and how they may improve as a result of a regional collaboration | World Health Organization (WHO) |
| C04.21 — History of Geographical Thought | Geographical representations | To discuss the geographical speculation systems that have emerged in the individual cultural contexts. In particular, to focus on the interaction between Arab and European approaches to geography | United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) |
| C04.22 — Karst | Environmental change | To discuss how the land use has evolved in karst areas, and focus on the impact from climate change | United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) |
| C04.23 — Land Degradation and Desertification | Environmental change Desertification Aridation | To discuss how local communities have dealt with desertification, in that considering either the hightech and traditional approaches | Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) |
| C04.24 — Land Use and Land Cover Change | Global change Cultural contexts | To discuss how the land use patterns have evolved as a consequence of human pressure and climate change, and what geographical conditions have influenced them | Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) |
| C04.25 — Landscape analysis | Cultural change Climate change | To explore the diversity of landscapes, the interaction between culture and nature which has influenced their evolution, and the approaches from UNESCO and the Council of Europe to safeguard them | United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Council of Europe |
| C04.26 — Local Development | Globalisation Local systems | To discuss how the local systems have dealt with globalisation processes, and how this process has influenced the intra-Mediterranean relationships, as well the relationships between the Mediterranean and other regions of the world | United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) |
| C04.27 Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses | Globalisation Local systems | To discuss how the local communities have reacted to globalisation processes, and how the cultural contexts have influenced this interaction | United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) |

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| C04.28 — Marine Geography | Globalisation Island contexts | To discuss how maritime circulation and relevant relationships between human communities have evolved, and how these networks may contribute to the security and human development | Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO |
| C04.30 — Monitoring Cities of Tomorrow | Globalisation Urbanisation Local systems | To discuss how urbanisation have changed, and how this process may be driven in increasing protection of tangible culture of the cities, their cultural identities and their landscapes | UN Habitat programme United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) |
| C04.31 — Population and Vulnerability | Global Change Culture | To discuss how human communities have been endangered by climate change and globalisation processes | United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), Priority Actions Programme (PAP) |
| C04.32 — Sustainability of Rural Systems | Climate change Globalisation Cultural heritage | To discuss how the rural systems may be valued, and their sustainability may be guaranteed, <i>vis-à-vis</i> climate change and globalisation | Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) World Food Programme (WFP) International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) |
| C04.33 — Water Sustainability | Climate Change Cultural heritage | To discuss how freshwater management may improve using hightech and valuing traditional techniques contextually | Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), Priority Actions Programme (PAP) |
| C04.34 — World Political Map [Political Geography] | Globalisation Geopolitical change | To discuss how political co-operation may improve in the region, and how collaboration between the Mediterranean and other regions of the world may improve. | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) |
| <i>Task Forces</i> | | | |
| T04.01— Geoparks | Climate change, globalisation | To discuss how the establishment of geoparks have been operated and may be improved, in that focusing on significant case studies | United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) |
| T04.02 — Megacities | Globalisation Human development | To discuss how urbanisation has evolved, and how the peculiar urban landscapes and cultural heritage may be valued in the framework of globalisation | UN Habitat programme United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) |
| T04.03 — Olympiads | Cultural change | To discuss how the IGU Olympiads initiative may be operated in the Mediterranean cultural contexts | United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) |

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| T.04.04 — Vulnerability | Global Change Human development | To discuss how the local communities have dealt with volcanic and seismic manifestations, and how these approaches may be improved by using hightech methods and techniques, including regional collaboration | Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), Priority Actions Programme (PAP) |
| <i>Joint programmes</i> | | | |
| Oceans 21 | Global change Globalisation | To co-operate with inter-governmental organisations with the design of coastal management tools tailored to the Mediterranean local contexts | Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Mediterranean Action Plan, Priority Actions Centre |
| Globally Important Ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) | Climate change, globalisation | To focus on the ingenious agricultural systems, their role in safeguarding biological and cultural diversity , and in improving the local economic systems | Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) |