

Catalonia's Mediterranean Strategy MedCat 2030

Summary

Catalonia, Mediterranean country



Generalitat de Catalunya
Government of Catalonia

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Ministry for Foreign Action, Institutional Relations and Transparency

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- 1 The Mediterranean is a priority for Catalan foreign action. Consequently, the Government of Catalonia has envisaged the preparation of **Catalonia's Mediterranean Strategy MedCat 2030**, and the development of a **2019-2022 Action Plan** to allow renewal and reinforcement of Catalan vision on the Mediterranean.
- 2 To define the content of this strategy, three phases involved all Catalan Government Ministries, as well as civil society actors and experts to analyse the weight of the Mediterranean in Catalonia and the ongoing departmental actions, consult on global trends and challenges for Catalonia in terms of the Mediterranean, and identify the objectives and lines of action to deploy.
- 3 Catalonia's Mediterranean Strategy MedCat 2030 is a tool in the medium and long term, establishing a vision, core ideas and strategic objectives. Its 2030 horizon is aligned with the European and international agenda, with special reference to Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.
- 4 When considering the context of Catalonia's foreign action in the Mediterranean, the heterogeneity and wealth of the region as a whole shall be taken into account, including spaces and dynamics having very different yet complementary relations between each other. Catalonia has different areas of reference: the Mediterraneanity that corresponds to an internal space in construction, and the Mediterranean as a whole - as a space for association and partnership. Furthermore, within the European framework, the Mediterranean of southern Europe is constituted as an emerging space for innovation and competitiveness, while western Mediterranean represents the nearby area of alliances and networks to be consolidated. A global strategy must deploy instruments that adapt to the reality of this context.
- 5 To prepare the MedCat 2030 Strategy, a diagnosis was carried out on Catalonia's main strengths and weaknesses in the Mediterranean environment. Some data illustrate Catalonia's power in different sectors of social, cultural and economic opportunities.

In this context, the importance of human ties stands out. 21% of the total number of foreign residents in Catalonia comes from the southern shore of the Mediterranean. The Mediterranean represents 28% of the whole Catalan cooperation in the world (2017). Almost 25% of university mobility has its origins in a Mediterranean country, although most are in countries bordering the north shore. At pre-

sent some thirty centers, as well as international institutions and networks dedicated exclusively to the Mediterranean have their headquarters in Catalonia. In addition, relations with the Mediterranean represent 32.7% of Catalan foreign trade (2017), with sectors such as the agro-alimentary, in which in the last years Catalonia exported to the whole Mediterranean 25% more than what it imports from it. With Barcelona as the most important port in passenger volume, Catalonia is the largest intermodal logistics hub in southern Europe, and the Mediterranean represents 28% of total passenger volume in Catalan ports.

6 Following a consultation with over 250 experts, as well as political, institutional, economic and social actors, global trends, as well as risks and opportunities into which these trends are translated in the Mediterranean area were identified. At the same time, some recommendations were deduced to prepare Catalonia's Mediterranean Strategy.

Among others, it was set out how we are going towards a more African and urban Mediterranean, with the challenges this raises in terms of provision of public services, housing and transport. Climate change is one of the most important challenges, given that the Mediterranean area is especially vulnerable because of the high water stress it is already suffering and the importance of especially sensitive models for adaptation to energy transition for some exporting countries in the Mediterranean. Increasing instability and an extremely sensitive situation in terms of security has led to stabilisation and securitisation policies, to the detriment of democratisation and human development priorities. On the economic front, it was emphasized how differences among coastal markets do not favour an integrated regional vision, and how the absence of stable collaboration strategies at regional level in key sectors places the Mediterranean at a competitive disadvantage compared to other emerging regions. In addition, a scarcely inclusive model of economic growth in some economies in the basin causes that an increasingly trained human capital does not find quality, sustainable employment opportunities, in particular for young, feminine population. Even so, the emergence of new economic models (green, circular, blue and social) is a first-rate opportunity in this objective of transformation and global competitiveness. Furthermore, the emergence of Africa in both demographic and geopolitical terms can lead to a less Mediterranean region, or be interpreted as an opportunity to strengthen the links between Europe and Sub-Saharan and North Africa, with the Mediterranean as a space for transition and dialogue. Finally, it was highlighted how Europe faces the challenge of continuing to build its uniqueness as a global actor in the Mediterranean, and how the most important challenge is to establish Euro-Mediterranean relations that represent an added value for international positioning of the region.

7 As a result of the aforementioned potentialities and challenges, the Government of Catalonia provides a long-term vision committed to an innovative, intercultural and inclusive Mediterranean community. It promotes a renewed strategy that will contribute to a necessary change in Mediterranean relations approach, within the framework of Agenda 2030 objectives.

8 The MedCat 2030 Strategy identifies **three pillars and seven strategic objectives** to deploy in three successive four-year action plans. These pillars are as follows,

- **Commitment** to global challenges, by promoting a regional model to influence challenges of human, social and economic reach that affect the whole foreign action. This pillar underlines the following objectives:
 - Participate in the global agenda in the Mediterranean
 - Advocate for a transformative and Mediterranean citizenship model
 - Opt for an intelligent, sustainable and integrated space as a driving force for inclusive growth
- **Influence** and a renewed project, contributing to promote a new European project for the Mediterranean. From this pillar, the following objectives are set:
 - Expand Catalonia's capacity of incidence
 - Place the Mediterranean as a priority in European policies
- **Alliances** for outreach and exchange, by providing visibility, encouraging relationships and exchanges, as well as making the Mediterranean known and bringing it closer to Catalan society. This pillar has as its objectives:
 - Promote Catalonia as a Mediterranean hub
 - Internationalise and make Catalonia known

9 This strategy, understood as a long-term process, will include three successive action plans, each one to be promoted in four years. These multiannual plans seek to deploy and disseminate this strategy; coordinate Catalan Ministries' Mediterranean action; prioritise lines of action in a four-year period; capitalise ongoing and planned actions, and identify new initiatives or potentials.

10 The first **2019-2022 Action Plan** includes **20 action lines** and underlines **116 highlighted initiatives**. Furthermore, it identifies over 250 actions of the different Catalan Ministries in course in 2019.

11 In order to ensure the response capacity and coordination of this strategy, a governance system was envisaged to guarantee the participation of actors, institutions and Ministries of the Generalitat of Catalonia. With an Interministerial working group and a MedCat platform of actors and experts, supported by the Catalan Ministry for Foreign Action, Institutional Relations and Transparency, through its Secretariat for Foreign Action and the European Union.

12 Finally, a system for monitoring and evaluating the performance of this strategy's development and its objectives has been developed. This evaluation will be a transparency and visibility tool to communicate periodical results and promote involved agents' participation. In addition, it will allow for evaluating the performance degree of effectiveness in the deployment of this strategy and its impact, introducing improvement in terms of instruments and resources.