



**Generalitat
de Catalunya**



**Four Motors
for Europe
and Associates**

**WORK PROGRAM OF THE CATALAN PRESIDENCY OF THE
FOUR MOTORS FOR EUROPE**

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I) INTRODUCTION

In 1988 Baden-Württemberg, Lombardy, Rhône-Alpes and Catalonia decided to join forces and, through the signature of a memorandum, they constituted the Four Motors for Europe – an interregional cooperation network. Moreover, this network has two associated governments, Flanders and Wales; and from October 2014 Quebec is a cooperative partner.

These European territories have worked together with the objective of increasing their economic, cultural and social potentiality, and making a valuable contribution to the process of European integration. In this regard, this network is model of success based on the exchange of experiences, the promotion of common projects and the defence of strategic priorities through lobbying.

The Four Motors for Europe represent an important point of reference within the European Union, both for being an agreement of cooperation among non-neighbouring territories, and for being four leading regions in their respective states as to economic, industrial, and commercial development.

However, in the context of the economic crisis that we are living at global and European levels our territories are facing serious challenges; therefore, strengthening our collaboration is more important than ever.

From 23 January 2015 Catalonia takes over the network presidency from Lombardy, with the clear objective of invigorating cooperation in the economic field, in order to influence the process of economic recovery of its member territories and of Europe.

The Catalan presidency believes that this crisis can also become an opportunity to change the economic and social model of our regions. In this sense, Catalonia is strongly committed to progress towards a new economic model, based on innovation, intelligence and a more sustainable production formula.

In this context, the Catalan presidency can serve as platform to discuss and exchange innovative, intelligent and sustainable experiences that would enable us to continue being leading territories for our countries and also for Europe.

Owing to the conviction that information and communication technologies are intended to be the engine of progress that will change our way to understand the world, and to create qualified and value-added work opportunities, the ICTs will become the thread of the Catalan presidency.

Furthermore, the work program considers a series of **priority thematic objectives** that give substance to the actions and projects of joint cooperation, and some **objectives of international exposure** that focus in actions to strengthen the presence of the network at both European and international levels.

Catalonia intends to continue displaying and consolidating, during its year of presidency, the work of sectorial groups that promote joint cooperation in the different areas, as well as to reactivate some working groups that have lapsed into inactivity.

With this work program Catalonia also wishes to confirm its pro-European and continuist vocation as a reliable partner for regions with whom it has a historical relation. Its last objective is to increase utility and ensure the permanence of this network as an effective forum to defend most industrialized regions' interests.

II) PRESIDENTS' MEETING: CENTRAL FOCUS OF THE PRESIDENCY

The Catalan presidency believes that it is necessary to progress towards an economic model based on innovation, intelligence, and a more sustainable production formula. In 2014 by the European Commission designated Barcelona as the European capital of innovation. The Catalan capital is also a world benchmark for smart cities - a sustainable model for applying technology and creativity for citizens' benefit and their quality of life.

Moreover, since 2011 Barcelona is the world capital of mobile technology. Thus, Catalonia's capital is organising every year the Mobile World Congress (MWC) and has become the international point of reference in the field of information and communication technologies (ICTs).

The MWC highlights Catalonia's and Barcelona's commitment to ICTs - one of the leading economic sectors that brings the most investment and has the most future. Indeed, ICTs have implications in all areas, from industrial policy to public services, culture, citizens' participation, public finance or research and innovation.

This sector is one of those that has fared best in the economic crisis, since it managed to reduce the negative effects caused by the change in the economic cycle, and has found a formula that has proven valid to continue the progress of individuals, companies and the whole economy: continuous improvement of innovation and productivity.

However, ICT policies are a challenge shared by the whole of Europe as it has been losing its leading position in strategic areas such as mobility. We must work together to get it back, and smart solutions are an opportunity in this regard.

More than ever before, Catalonia remains committed to a united and connected Europe, and we wish to confirm our pro-European and cooperative vocation. In this regard, we want to use Barcelona's status of capital in the field of mobile technology and ICT to strengthen European platforms by promoting network connectivity among regions. Therefore, we propose that the next meeting of Presidents of the Four Motors for Europe network should be held next June in Barcelona and a joint declaration signed to reaffirm their positioning at European level regarding network connectivity, while continuing giving support to the European Digital Agenda; all this within a framework of collaboration between the regions to take part in possible calls for funding ICT projects.

Furthermore, Catalonia considers it vital to promote a more intelligent, sustainable and integrated society through ICT. We intend to turn Catalonia and Europe into intelligent territories of reference. The Government of Catalonia recently approved the *SmartCatalonia* strategy that intends to transform Catalonia into an intelligent territory of international reference taking advantage of the use of technology and digital information for innovating in public services, as well as promoting economic growth and an intelligent, sustainable society. With the firm conviction that the vision from an urban area must be extended, since sustainability criteria can be optimized if they are shared, we would like to make this strategy extensive at the European level.

Therefore, we propose the creation of a SmartEurope to restore European leadership in the ICT sector, developing fiscal, industrial, research and innovation fields, and reversing the current situation of the constantly increasing dominance in the market by products and services of providers from other continents. It is, thus, a matter of creating an environment to promote European ICT industries that would allow increasing the capacity for industrial research and activating the technological demand of companies.

Furthermore, during the Presidents' Meeting we also want to discuss and exchange experiences about innovation - this should be one of our regions' differential features to be promoted. In this regard, the European Commission chose Barcelona as the European capital of innovation for being a productive city which is improving its management through technology and with people in mind. At present Catalonia is in the process of merging the several existing advanced technological centres into a New Integrated Centre which we want to position as an international centre of reference, by becoming a motor of key technological generation to implement the research and innovation strategy for intelligent specialization in Catalonia (RIS3CAT), linked to Strategy 2020.

It is for all these reasons that the Catalan presidency considers it appropriate to take advantage of Barcelona's status as capital in ICTs and mobile technologies to strengthen our clear commitment to the development of this sector as a motor of change and progress for our regions and, within the framework of the Presidents' Meeting, to ignite an in-depth debate among members of the Four Motors for Europe on all these topics to be better heard everywhere.

III) PRIORITY THEMATIC OBJECTIVES

1. CLUSTER POLICY

Clusters are powerful motors of economic development, as well as drivers of innovation in the European Union. They provide a favourable business environment for companies -especially for SMEs- to collaborate with research centres, suppliers, customers and competitors in a given business area, often concentrated in a delimited geographical environment. In this regard, the European Commission established a framework for action to improve cluster policy in the different regions and countries to strengthen competitiveness and raise the level of excellence and internationalization with the ultimate goal of promoting world-class clusters. This framework has gradually been gaining relevance in the political agenda which has been translated in concrete opportunities within the European Commission funding schemes, nowadays with an increased focus on internationalisation, cross-sector collaboration and emerging industries.

In 2007 the Four Motors for Europe and Associates -all of them with consolidated cluster policies- established a framework for dialogue and collaboration on clusters. It is therefore necessary to continue and deepen the work carried out in former presidencies in the "Cluster Dialogue 4ME&A" context to source new areas of collaboration.

The "Cluster Dialogue 4ME&A" essentially consists of two parts. On the one hand, it offers a qualified communication channel among cluster policy makers at technical level in the different regions to exchange working methodologies expertise and search for cooperation opportunities.

In this regard, we propose to organize, in June 2015 in Barcelona, a meeting of cluster policy makers from the four regions plus associates. The meeting, in addition to exchanging good practices on cluster policy and exploring possible cooperation in specific projects, would also be an opportunity to present the work of some organisations related to clusters in Barcelona, especially the TCI Network (the most important network in this area at world level), and the European Foundation for Cluster Excellence (which provides specific training on clusters for economic development practitioners and cluster managers). This topic is considered to be of interest to all members of the Four Motors for Europe and Associates, and can

contribute to reinforcing the image of Catalonia as a major hub of knowledge on clusters.

On the other hand, the "Cluster Dialogue 4ME&A" included more recently a second area of work that aims to translate the common synergies found through the dialogue into concrete opportunities for joint collaboration. Namely, the core objective is to foster thematic/sectoral cooperation and implement specific projects of transnational cooperation among the different cluster organisations of the partner regions. . In this regard, given that the programme Horizon 2020 includes demographic change in Europe and wellbeing as challenges -under the programme section *Societal Challenges*- and given that within the framework of these priorities Wellbeing and Active Ageing is a topic to be explored, **we propose a specific sectoral meeting, to be held in September, to focus on this question.**

It should be noted that Wellbeing and Active Ageing involve very different sectors and is a particularly suitable theme for the emergence of clusters engaged in all kinds of products and services related to the increasingly large needs of the population aged over 55 in Europe. The European Union has specific funds within the Europe 2020 strategy, that are available to develop projects related to this issue.

If efforts to establish a Dialogue about Wellbeing and Active Ageing by the Four Motors for Europe and Associates, within the framework of the "Cluster Dialogue" are successful- as was the case with the Dialogue about e-Mobility-, meetings of cluster organisations, companies and other relevant stakeholders of the different sectors interested in developing services and/or products for the population of over 55 could be further organised within the framework of the EXPO 2015 in Milan, taking into account that the general theme of EXPO 2015 focuses on life and nutrition.

2. REINDUSTRIALIZATION

Within the framework of the Catalan presidency of the Four Motors for Europe, we propose that actions to be developed over 2015 **focus on promoting innovation policies in the industrial sector.** This proposal fits in with the strategy of the European Commission, which has set a target to increase the relevance of industry in European GDP - currently at 16% to reach 20% in 2020. To this end the European Commission has created the program *Initiative for European Renaissance*.

Catalonia, in the same way as the other three regions of the network, has traditionally been an industrial country. While some 4-motors regions have maintained their production tissue in the last years, other regions are coping with **reindustrialization**. In this sense it is fundamental **to set up structures that support maintaining and increasing the industrialisation level of the 4-motors**, being this one of the key themes of RIS3CAT (Research and Innovation Strategy for the Smart Specialisation of Catalonia).

Within the framework of the Four Motors for Europe, the Catalan presidency proposes to apply **under Horizon 2020 / COSME** for a **FOUR MOTORS JOINT Proposal** in order to **create an International projects Competition in sectors of common interest** of the four regions under the concept framework of **"Industry 4.0" / "Smart Industry"**.

All presented projects would be in the framework of Industry 4.0, and would have their industrial activity related to the priority sectors included in the smart specialisations strategies of the participant regions. As a first idea, **health** (especially **medical devices**) and **sustainable mobility (electromobility)** appear to be good candidates.

This program will strengthen our regions' economy and create more economic opportunities for all by connecting technological innovative projects from the participant regions in the Program with local and regional stakeholders, as well as by sharing best practices. The participating companies are expected to create strong ties of interregional cooperation (corporate and science), and in the best cases, consolidate and expand with innovative projects in our regions; and help to create new business models that will create new opportunities for adding value.

Promotion is a key aspect for the success of this initiative. At this point, it would be appropriate to **connect EEN regional agencies/contact points** for this purpose and agencies or institutions to collaborate with it.

We consider appropriate to **include** in this initiative **other regions** that collaborate with the Four Motors for Europe such as **Flanders and Wales, something that will both enrich the initiative and the Network.**

Necessary steps to do during 2015 to achieve this goal include, among others: Confirmation of participation and **commitment** of each region; Identification of the **POC** (points of contact) and **managers** of each region for the project; **Check** for each region for different EU **call possibilities** where to apply; A **preparatory Meeting in Barcelona (February 2015)** to describe the specifications of the competition in detail and the objectives that are expected to be attained, and other relevant aspects such as promotion plan, selection criteria, evaluators panel, Institutional Public Events, "award ceremony" (for instance the MWC), Distribution of tasks. Application of the Competition Proposal to a UE call could be during the last trimester of 2015 if schedules coincide.

Also, **Catalonia Industrial Engineers Association**, together with recognized organisations for engineering in Stuttgart, Milan and Lyon are interested in collaborating within the framework of the Four Motors for Europe to express their point of view in terms of industry and engineering, with particular attention to technological innovation and improvement of environmental quality – all priorities of the Catalan presidency and of the Strategy 2020 of the European Union. Engineers command technological innovation in Europe, thereby making prosper not only the industrial sector, but also the remaining sectors of the productive fabric to guarantee the right development and evolution of society, ensuring at all times the environmental quality of processes. Therefore, in accordance with the wish expressed by the groups of engineers of the four partners of the network, we are going to **propose the creation of a sub-group of "Cluster Dialogue 4ME&A" of Engineers within the Group of Economy of the network, led by Catalonia.**

3. GREEN ECONOMY

The Strategy Europe 2020 of the EU states as a priority the need for a shift towards a low carbon economy and efficient use of resources to achieve sustainable growth.

Natural resources underpin our economy and our quality of life. The increased efficiency of resources is key to ensuring growth and employment in Europe. The promotion of green economy, then, will entail great economic opportunities, improve productivity, reduce costs and increase competitiveness. The Green economy must, therefore, be the mainstay of economic growth both in Catalonia and in Europe.

The priority themes of this topic to be developed over the Catalan presidency will be the following:

- **STRATEGY OF BOOSTING THE GREEN ECONOMY:** in order to promote sustainability as a strategic pillar to achieve economic recovery, improve competitiveness and increase employment. Specifically, the main initiative of the

Green Economy Boosting to be developed through the Four Motors for Europe consisting of implementing a program to support companies in the economic sector of the environment - companies linked to the competencies of the Catalan Ministry of Territory and Sustainability.

- **INTERREG:** we would present a common European project about the subject of Green Economy that would enable the participant regions to improve competitiveness, employment and environmental management of the different territories. The main objective of the project is the exchange of best practices to create or strengthen the green economy action plans in each region, in order to:
 - give support and create new business opportunities for companies working on sustainability and the green economy;
 - foster the creation of sound, structured strategies of cooperation among companies, experts, research centres and universities, as well as public authorities on green economic issues;
 - create a virtual platform to disseminate examples of good practices among the business community and complement the cases with training modules that would highlight specific aspects of open innovation.
- **The Advisory Council for the Sustainable Development of Catalonia (CADS)** plans to organise two sessions in 2015 under the umbrella of the Network of European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC), of which CADS is a member. The sessions will provide a high level debate on green economy to which the partners of the Four Motors for Europe will be invited to participate.

4) ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

We propose to extend further continuity to topics being already worked on or having been agreed to be worked on in former presidencies about the environment, because they were agreed among the partners. We will also work to give more visibility to the Four Motors for Europe in networks in which we are already participating together with all partners. The priority subjects of this thematic area to be developed over the Catalan presidency are:

- **EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY:** given that the first Conference on Environmental Education was held in 2013 in Lyon (Rhône-Alpes), and the second conference was this year in Bergamo (Lombardy), we propose to organize the Third Conference of Environmental Education in Barcelona taking advantage of the Catalan presidency of the Four Motors for Europe during the last quarter of 2015.

We are also studying the possibility of collaborating in the organization of a space shared among the network partners within the framework of the Expo of Milan 2015, scheduled for June to September 2015 and dedicated to education for sustainability.

- **CLIMATE CHANGE:** the countries have agreed to negotiate in 2015 a new global agreement about climate change. Next year will, thus, be a year of intense negotiations for the countries to present their contributions.

Next May the international fair of carbon markets Carbon Expo 2015 will be held in Barcelona. We propose to take advantage of its impact and of the interest it will generate to **organise an event about climate change and its funding.**

We should remember that in 2010 the Four Motors for Europe arranged a meeting about climate change in Lyon, with a further meeting in Baden-Württemberg. **We therefore propose to host within the framework of the Carbon Expo an event aiming at presenting the contributions of regional governments, and specifically of the Four Motors for Europe, on the subject of mitigation and adaptation to the climate change in the future.** We also propose a meeting of the working group for environment of the network, as well as a brokerage event to improve knowledge and facilitate collaboration among companies of the environment sector of the four regions.

In December in Paris within the framework of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) it is proposed to carry out an event in collaboration with other networks and organizations with whom Catalonia collaborates closely, such as the Network of Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD), the Climate Group or the European Conference of Regional Ministers for the Environment (ENCORE), with whom the other members of the Four Motors for Europe are also working.

For its part, Catalonia is preparing the third report about climate change (published every 5 years); it could be presented in the context of this meeting.

- **CUSTODY OF THE TERRITORY:** we wish to share with all the partners of the Four Motors for Europe the project Land LIFE in which Catalonia has taken part, together with Lombardy. Land LIFE intends to promote the custody of the territory as an effective tool for the conservation of nature and biodiversity in Europe. At the same time, it aims at making custody an attractive mechanism to conservation organisations, owners, local and regional governments, as well as to citizens in general, and at creating a network among social agents that can be part of this instrument.

5) AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is an area where EU regulation has a principal importance, thus the problems and needs of the four regions of the Four Motors for Europe are very similar. Agriculture is, as a result, very conducive to regional cooperation. Specifically, we propose the following:

- **CONFERENCE ON MOUNTAIN VITICULTURE:** winemaking is a remarkable feature amongst the Four Motors for Europe. Clearly the Mediterranean climate conditions, to a large extent, characterises our wines and their organoleptic qualities endow them with a very special personality. Catalonia is a land of great contrasts, and we can see a number of synergies with the other three regions.

What is common is that they all produce wines using grapes cultivated in high mountains. We therefore **propose organising a one-day conference within the framework of the 35th Fair of Wines and Cellars of Catalonia, from 24 to 27 September 2015.** This conference would seek to highlight the circumstances characterising heights and sloped vineyards. To be held at Món Sant Benet (<http://monstbenet.com/en>).

- **SEMINAR/STRATEGIC WORKSHOP ON IRRIGATION AND SOCIETY:** the FAO has long been warning that the increase in population and the improvement of living conditions will lead to a growing demand for food, while land for cultivation is limited. As a way out, these organizations are proposing a more efficient use of the

different available technologies - which means investing in research and innovation, as well as working on technology transfer to efficiently reach the end-user. Within this context water is another essential element for agricultural production.

However, this element is also surrounded by stress because of the increasing demands on its different uses. For this reason this seminar intends to put forward the general parameters affecting European society - as expressed by the title "Irrigation and Society", to see what treatment it is given by the current framework of the second pillar of the European CAP, and analyze the policies applied by Four Motors for Europe regions. The seminar will be held on 26 and 27 May in Barcelona and Tàrraga (Lleida).

6) CULTURE:

Culture is the third EU sector with most direct employment. Creative industries generate over 7 million jobs in the European Union and represent 3.3% of its job market, with the added value of being among the most intensive industries in terms of employment of workers under 30 (19% of the total)¹.

Between 2008 and 2012 the culture has continued creating jobs, with an increase of 0.7% per annum (when in European as a whole this was the rate of job destruction).

So there is no doubt that the creative industries are an important growth and employment factor. The economic potential of this sector is to be taken into account, as it has withstood the crisis well and has been able to adapt to changes brought by digital revolution converting them into opportunities while creating new business models.

The immediate objective of the Catalan presidency will be to **reactivate the group of Culture of the Four Motors for Europe in order to establish joint action and cultural policy lines**, as well as **explore ways of cooperation and coproduction, especially as to audiovisual and digital entertainment industries**, that within the framework of the UE are employing 1.352.500 professionals (641.000 film, 603.500 TV and 108.000 video games).

In this regard we will propose a **first meeting of the working group for Culture of the Four Motors for Europe to be held in June 2015**. It will include a preparatory session for representatives of culture to establish lines and actions, and a further public event with many participants. It will be called **4 Motors Summit of Digital&Creative Industries** and will be one of a series of first line events to be hosted next June in the city of Barcelona, when it will become the capital of animation, video games, videocreation, and special effects.

The Catalan Ministry of Culture, with the collaboration of Barcelona City Council, will develop a project gathering different initiatives and events related to audiovisual and digital industry to be held in June 2015 in the Catalan capital. Among others, professionals and public in general will be able to attend **Gamelab** (video games market), **Loop** (video art fair), **Cartoon 360º** (pitching event of cross media animation), **Anima't** (animation production day), **B'Arts** (special effects market), as well as specialized seminars, prize-giving ceremonies, etc. - a brand highlighting the concentration of talent, creativity, professionalism and power of the local industry, and

¹Data from a study recently presented by Ernst & Young about cultural and creative sectors in Europe, commissioned by the European Grouping of Societies of Authors and Composers, December 2014.

allowing to explain how Catalan public institutions are promoting the audiovisual and digital culture.

Taking, thus, advantage of this singularity, and also having ascertained that in this area the four regions of the network have similar initiatives and structures, we propose to host this summit among the regions of the Four Motors for Europe to **know the different cultural policies in audiovisual, digital talent and creation areas, as well as explore the connections and joint action lines that can be developed in different lines**: 1) **training**, 2) **research and development** (especially regarding start-ups incubators), 3) public and private **funding**, 4) **production** and 5) **use** of content and productions.

The conclusions of this summit should be useful to:

- contribute to the realization by national and European political authorities of the importance of these industries for the EU and the whole of the European economy, as until now their potential for economic growth and employment has then not been taken into account;
- improve and coordinate local and regional policies in the area of digital and interactive means strategy, and lobbying at European level;
- share good practices and enable the creation of interregional cooperation networks and projects.

7) YOUTH, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

The main objective of the Catalan presidency in this area will be to **reactivate the working group for Youth, and propose its fusion with the working group for Training and Employment**. This proposal it requires the **prior** approval of all the partners of the Four Motors for Europe to be able to work with this group. Catalonia proposes that the presidency's frame **idea would be the promotion of youth, while fostering transnational mobility from all the participating regions**.

Last May the Government of Catalunya signed an Agreement for Workers' Mobility with one of the network partners, Baden-Württemberg, to promote that initiative that Catalan young people work and complete their professional training in companies of the German region. Throughout this presidency we would like to broaden this policy and include the other partners of the Four Motors for Europe.

The Catalan presidency intends to reactivate the contacts we already have in order to identify projects that it may be of interest to carry out jointly between the regions of the Four Motors for Europe. In the next calls the network regions could collaborate more closely to present joint projects (from 2016).

We should therefore work to identify existing modes of action and programs that can be jointly carried out with the network regions. Possible topics that could be of interest: students' internships in companies, Erasmus, postgraduate students, teachers, and youth employment. Programs that could also be an object of common projects: Erasmus Plus (K2), FSE (employment) or the European Youth Guarantee, among others.

8) SPORTS

The 'White Paper on Sport' published by the European Commission in 2007 and the Communication on "Developing the European Dimension in Sport" of 2011 have assessed the importance of physical activity and sport and have determined its social

function, as well as its actual dimension in terms of health, economy and organization.

In this regard the Eurobarometer – the comparative survey done in 2002 and 2009 - provides data to help develop policies for the promotion of sports and physical activity and can set out guidelines for policy makers, researchers and other interested parties.

The data from these surveys warn of Europeans' trend towards sedentary lifestyle - since 2009 the percentage of people who never do sports has increased from 39% to 42%, and people doing sporadic sports has decreased from 21% to 17%.

Therefore, Catalan presidency's main aims in this area of sports within the Four Motors for Europe interregional cooperation network will be:

1. Work in a coordinated manner in order to increase the healthy, educational practice of physical activity and sports in every age group.
2. Encouraging positive sports activities for the health of the population.
3. Encouraging physical activity and sports as a healthy habit and fighting inactivity.
4. Raising awareness on the benefits of physical activity and sports through actions and educational campaigns focused on promoting physical activity.
5. Promoting the practice of physical activity and sports among women.

Based on previous experience on sports in the context of the Four Motors for Europe a proposal for activities will be presented concerning:

- The European Week of Sport - the General Secretariat for Sport of the Catalan Government will join the momentum of the European Week of Sport, to be held in September 2015.
- World Physical Activity Day 2015 - for the sixth consecutive year in Catalonia, on April 6 this event will help promote physical activity as a fundamental element of health and wellness.

9) CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION

In order to overcome the so-called democratic deficit, the European Union has created in the last year several instruments to assist in the dissemination of knowledge about Union citizenship and the rights that go with it; whilst at the same time it promotes through its programs (especially Justice and Research) the application of new tools for decision making at European level.

For its part, since 2012 the working group for citizen's participation of the Four Motors for Europe network is taking steps to create a European intergovernmental network for citizen's participation that should bring together governments that foster participation and its institutionalization.

In Catalonia the experiences carried out in this field (at local and regional levels) have shown that governments can benefit from taking decisions after listening to citizens; at the same time, the new technologies and the need to respond to new demands from

citizens make more necessary than ever to go deeper into new instruments to improve governance.

For this reason, Catalonia promotes both training and the implementation of citizen's participation processes, and it shares the wish that these processes could be consolidated at the 4 Motors for Europe level.

Within the framework of the next presidency of the Four Motors for Europe, we propose to organise a meeting devoted to the state of the art of citizenship's participation in public affairs. The objectives of the meeting are twofold.

On the one hand, the aim is to foster exchange between experts and actors around Europe in order to reflect on citizen's participation in the context of new citizenship demands and new forms of political participation. On the other hand, the meeting also intends to detect some key challenges and opportunities related to citizen's participation at the specific level of member regions of the Four Motors for Europe, in order to progress in the creation of the above mentioned network.

The workshop will comprise three general areas and their relation with citizen's participation: European regions as privileged actors, institutional crisis and confidence; and the role of citizens in the new European governance. It will be held in Barcelona next September.

10) DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL MACROSTRATEGIES AND FUTURE STRATEGY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

It has been detected that there is a good number of common challenges, as well as a need for greatest synergy and efficiency in policies having territorial impact affecting all the Mediterranean in different areas such as the environment; climate change and energy; maritime policies and blue growth; transport; accessibility and migratory flows; SMEs; research and youth employment; as well as decentralization and democratic governance, among others. These policies can be managed more efficiently if done together in the Mediterranean countries area.

We believe, therefore, it would be pertinent to continue promoting the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean macroregion based on an integrated, multilevel governance model in the long term - following the example of those already existing on the Danube or the Baltic Sea, and being created in the Alpine and Adriatic-Ionian areas- to operationalize a powerful coordination process and carry out specific projects of macroregional cooperation. These projects would begin to be carried out on the north-western shore of the Mediterranean with EU member states, and would be open to a gradual integration of Maghreb countries.

An integrated Euro-Mediterranean macroregion is an ambitious long-term project that is still in an embryonic state. **An added value to contribute to creating this strategy would be to take advantage of the Four Motors for Europe to exchange views and best practices on governance and on complementariness of existing and emergent macroregional strategies.**

In this regard, in 2013 and 2014 and, particularly over the period of Greek and Italian presidency of the EU Council, the Intermediterranean Commission (IMC) of the CPMR has held some events to promote a debate with territorial actors in the Mediterranean and European institutions about these topics, and it has produced reports and political positionings about this. In addition, the CPMR with its *Task Force* on macroregions and maritime basin strategies, coordinated by Catalonia, has been promoting in recent years reflections on its governance and its *modus operandi*, and has made clear recommendations to the European institutions from the regional level. Regarding the

Mediterranean, the most recent trends show clear possibilities to be able to start to work on a maritime basin strategy for the occidental Mediterranean that could lead the way to new and emergent macroregional strategies in the Mediterranean.

Given these circumstances we propose to carry out a seminar in Barcelona next October, where both Lombardy as a member of the Alpine macroregion, as well as Baden-Württemberg in its condition of member of the Danube macroregion could contribute and share their experience on the steps to establish and implement a macroregion, improve their governance and explain the priority objectives of each of them. Since Barcelona hosts the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, the institutional cooperation with this organisation should be intensified in order to foster the creation of the Mediterranean macroregion.

IV) LOBBYING

The Europe 2020 Strategy promotes a smarter, more sustainable and inclusive European society. One of its flagship initiatives is the Digital Agenda for Europe that seeks to promote Europe's competitive advantage by creating an industry and a strong market in the digital environment.

In this sense, the Catalan presidency will focus its lobbying to increase the role of regions in this field by developing Smart Region strategies, and taking advantage of the tractor effect of the most innovative regions with industrial capacity, as it is the case of the Four Motors for Europe.

V) INTERNATIONAL EVENT

Catalonia will propose to lead a joint mission of the Four Motors for Europa and Associates in a third country – a mission to be developed preferably in November 2015.

Proposals for the mission will be discussed in the next meeting of the Economy Group of the network. ACCIÓ will help prepare the chosen mission, which initially will consist of three components: institutional, technical and entrepreneurial.

VI) TIMETABLE

2015					
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
PRESIDENCY SESSION (23)	PREPARATORY MEETING REINDUSTRIAL IZATION CONTEST	MEDITERRANEAN FOREST WEEK: MEETING ON BIOMASS- RELATED REGIONAL STRATEGIES REGIONAL (16,17,18)	KICK-OFF REINDUSTRI ALIZATION CONTEST (INSTITUTIO NAL EVENT IN BCN)	CLIMATE CHANGE EVENT & MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR ENVIRONMENT OF THE 4ME (CARBON EXPO)	PRESIDENTS' MEETING - ICT EVENT
				GREEN ECONOMY SEMINAR (EEAC)	CLUSTER DIALOGUE 4ME&A MEETING IN BARCELONA OF
				SEMINAR/STR ATEGIC WORKSHOP ON IRRIGATION AND SOCIETY (26 & 27)	FOUR MOTORS SUMMIT DIGITAL OF &CREATIVE INDUSTRIES
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
		CLUSTER DIALOGUE 4ME&A SECTORIAL MEETING: <i>WELLBEING&AC TIVE AGEING</i>	MACROREG IONS SEMINAR	BUSINESS MISSION	
		ONE-DAY CONFERENCE ON MOUNTAIN VITICULTURE		EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABIL ITY	
		SEMINAR ON CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION IN EUROPE			