



Generalitat de C



**WORKING PLAN FOR THE CATALAN  
PRESIDENCY OF THE  
FOUR MOTORS FOR EUROPE AND  
ASSOCIATES  
2010–2011**



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With the signature of its Memorandum of foundation in 1988, the Four Motors for Europe was created as an association for inter-regional co-operation made up of the territories of Baden-Württemberg, Catalonia, Lombardy and Rhône-Alpes. The goal pursued by these European territories is to enhance their economic, cultural and social potential and highly contribute to the European integration process.

The Four Motors for Europe represents an important point of reference within the European Union both as an agreement for co-operation between territories not sharing common borders and since it involves four leading regions within their respective Member States in terms of economic, industrial and commercial development. The Four Motors for Europe work to contribute to their general development and strengthen their strategic priorities through a concerted lobby.

The network has two associated governments, namely Flanders and Wales, which take an active part in economic co-operation.

Catalonia will assume the presidency of the network in 2010 with the clear objective of augmenting co-operation in economic matters to foster the process of economic recovery of the member territories and of Europe within the framework of the current worldwide economic crisis.

At the same time it plans to maintain the same line of potentiating the network's role as a lobby within the framework of the EU, promoting the internationalisation of the network by the cooperation with the Four Motors of MERCOSUR, a co-operation network made up of the state of Paraná (Brazil), the department of Alto Paraná (Paraguay), the province of Córdoba (Argentina) and the department of Rivera (Uruguay), establishing common projects for the two networks and exchanging best practices of common interest.

During its year of presidency, it is also foreseen to strengthen the work of the sectorial working groups that promote the cooperation in fields as environment, research, education, youth and sports.

The goals of the Catalan presidency for 2010 are arranged in three overall categories: **thematic objectives**, comprising those that provide content to the joint co-operation projects, **international projection objectives**, focussing on actions to be taken to bolster the network's presence, and **structural objectives**, to ensure enhanced operation of the association's organisational structures.

### Thematic objectives

In this section we will present the priority issues that the Catalan Presidency is determined to work on and the specific activities that will be fostered in order to achieve the objectives established. Taking advantage of the fact that the Four Motors association is formed by four most dynamic regions in Europe, economy and the reinforcement of the role that decentralised governments play in it are a central issue in the Catalan working plan to give an urging response to the worldwide economic crisis.

The Catalan presidency will work to strengthen the role of non-state governments in economic activation through actions for interchange and co-operation in areas



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concerning productive economy addressed to enterprises and productive sectors. At the same time, a joint dialogue regarding areas as innovation or the internationalisation of enterprises will be promoted.

A further aim, among other relevant areas, is to provide incentives for co-operation in new areas such as employment and gender policies, and reactivation of areas of co-operation such as culture and education.

Priority strategic/thematic objective: To promote the role of substate governments in the economic growth of Europe by:

- Reinforcing the political role of substate governments as a key element for economic growth and development in Europe.
- Developing suitable policies to address economic challenges in the current economic crisis and future measures aimed at positioning the regions of the Four Motors in the vanguard and improving their future prospects.

That strategic objective will be pursued through three lines of action: promoting internationalisation, promoting innovation and boost improvement policies between the territories as a clear strategy to promote and give support to the economic group:

1. Internationalisation: Economic mission outside Europe and co-operation between regional economic agencies for international development.

A1. Institutional and Economic Mission outside Europe

A2. Cooperation between the International Economic Development Agencies

2. Innovation: Support for dialogue on clusters, promotion of dialogue on innovation between the territories and development of projects through financing.

A1. To support the Clusters Dialogue

A2. To promote the dialogue on Innovation between the member and associate territories..

A3. To develop projects through external funding (EU or other international organisations)

3. Improvement policies: Benchmarking and exchange of good practices converting the Four Motors into an instrument for reflection on the future of economic development and/or establishment of recommendations for the EU.

A1. Benchmarking and exchange of best practices

A2. To develop the 4 Motors as a platform to discuss subjects of importance to the future economic of the regions and develop common lines of action and/or recommendations from our policy makers to the EU.

### **Other *sectorial* objectives:**

#### Environment

- To support the work of the Environmental Working Group



- A1. Seminar on Air Quality
- A2. Climate change
- A3. Benchmarking on water: Workshop on the Regulatory Frame and Financial flow of Water Cycles Services (September 2010)
- A4. Conference of the European Regions about Climate Change organized by Rhône-Alpes (November 2010)

- To promote the international cooperation on environmental issues

- A1. To start collaboration with the 4MM on environmental issues
- A2. To participate/collaborate in the Technical Seminar on Eco technologies and business meetings on eco technologies to held in Córdoba (Argentina) in 2011.

### Culture

- To establish contacts between the Ministries of Culture to promote joint European projects.
- To promote the exchange of best practices on the subjects of Cultural Industries and audiovisual.

- A1. Re-launch the Culture Working Group.

### Education

- To support work of the Education Working Group
- To promote the mobility of students
- To foster the learning of languages through the promotion of language courses between the regions and government employees.

- A1. Exchange of best practices on mobility of students
- A2. Re-launch of the language courses of the 4ME

### Information Society

- To foster the exchange on the social use of the ICT's

- A1. Joint participation on the 2010 forum "*Les Interconnectés*" organised by Rhône Alpes.
- A2. Creation of a Working Group on the social use of ICT.

### Immigration policies

- To promote the exchange of best practices on integration policies.

- A1. Exchange of best practices

### Employment



- To share experiences on the framework of the labour relations

- A1. Meeting of Regional Governments and Social Agents (September 2010).
- A2. International Congress of Female Directors 2.0 (10-11 June 2010).

### Gender Policies

- To explore the possibility of exchanging best practices on the role of women in the rural development”.

A1. Exchange of best practices

### **Objectives for international projection of the association**

Since the outset the Four Motors for Europe has aimed to position itself on the international scene and make its influence felt outside the boundaries of its member territories. The association has always been willing to reach these objectives and actions to foster its international projection have been bolstered throughout all presidencies. In this case, Catalonia will continue to pursue actions to position the network at the European level and will promote actions to raise the networks international profile and promote the cooperation with the Four Motors of Mercosur.

- Activation of relations between the Four Motors of Mercosur and the Four Motors for Europe, mainly through continuity of joint projects and co-ordination of actions and exchange of good practices. That action will be supported and coordinated at European level by the Delegation of the Government of Catalonia in Argentina.

- A1. To promote and follow up the joint projects between the 4ME and the 4MM
- A2. To promote the project 4ME and 4MM about environment subjects

- Fostering the presence of the Four Motors for Europe vis-à-vis the EU: Promoting the network's capacity as a lobby with European institutions.

- A1. Meeting with MEP's of the regions members and associates of the 4ME in Brussels (date still to be confirmed).
- A2. Link the work of the 4 Motors to the EU 2020 Strategy
- A3. Joint activity in the framework of the Shanghai World Expo 2010

- To highlight the role of *lobby* of the association activities/debates around the promotion of regional cooperation at European and international level.

A1. Seminar on Regional Governments: emerging actors in a multipolar world.  
*The experience of the Four Motors for Europe.*

### **Structural objectives**



Within the framework of these objectives the aim is to consolidate the network's normal operations and its external projection, through updating of the [www.4motors.eu](http://www.4motors.eu) website and preparation of a graphic charter to unify its institutional image.

- To facilitate and co-ordinate the network's ongoing meetings.

A1. Coordinate the meeting of the Task Force at the end of 2010

A2. Coordinate the annual presidents meeting, (that will be held in Barcelona through 2010 (date still to be confirmed).

- To foster and promote the work of the working groups of the Four Motors for Europe.

A1. To promote at least 2 meetings per year of each working group and subgroups

- To update and activate the website of the Four Motors for Europe.

A1. Permanent update of the web contents

A2. To establish the coordination mechanisms of the web contents (both for the coordinators and the working groups). It will be coordinated by the presidency and updated by the people responsible for the RAL website.

- To unify the network's graphic criteria for all public and institutional acts.

A1. Elaboration of *Graphic Charter* to unify the external image of the 4ME



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**Monitoring group of the Catalan presidency**

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