

HOMER makes public information available to companies and citizens in the Mediterranean

The objective of this project is to promote the economic growth, the transfer of knowledge and technology and participation and democracy in the Northern Mediterranean basin.

HOMER (Harmonising Open data in the Mediterranean through better access and Reuse of public sector information) was created to make public information available to the private sector, in particular, and citizenship, in general, in order to boost economic growth, the transfer of knowledge and technology, participation and democracy. These are the goals of a transnational project which was launched in Turin (Italy) at the end of April. This project, coordinated by the Italian region of Piemonte, involves 19 partners from eight countries, all of them from the Northern basin of the Mediterranean: Spain, Italy, France, Greece, Cyprus, Malta, Slovenia and Montenegro.

The ultimate goal of this project is the creation of a common legal and technological framework which will range from the processing of metadata and the transparency of public digital heritage to the consolidation of a culture oriented to the publication of information, not forgetting the importance of legal aspects, among others. Therefore, at the same time that green light is given to companies to exploit that knowledge in order to increase their competitiveness in markets, this project also stimulates the involvement of citizens in the design of public policies which will, undoubtedly, affect them in their everyday life once implemented.

Activities will be focused on the development of open data portals in each territory; portals that will provide information on a wide range of fields such as tourism, agriculture, energy, environment, legislation or geographical information, i.e., anything that has a direct impact on the Mediterranean policy. The next step is the creation of a Federation of open data portals that will encourage interoperability between sectoral data. At the same time, two pilot actions aimed at promoting innovative and entrepreneurial ideas and citizen participation in legislative processes, either at local, regional or national level, will be promoted.

Mediterranean cooperation

HOMER, co-financed by the MED Programme and coordinated by the Italian region of Piemonte, involves 19 partners from eight countries of the Northern Mediterranean basin:

- Piedmont Region Innovation, Research, University Directorate (Italy).
- Consortium for Information Systems - Piedmont (Italy).
- Sardinia Region Direzione generale degli affari generali e della società dell'informazione (Italy).
- Emilia-Romagna Region ICT Department (Italy).
- Veneto Region Direzione Sistemi Informativi (Italy).
- Decentralized Administration de Crete (Greece).
- Universidad de Crete (Greece).
- Sewerage Board of Limassol – Amathus (Cyprus).
- Funditec (Spain).
- Provence Alpes Cote d'Azur Region (France).



- Institut de la Méditerranée (France).
- Local Council Association of Malta (Malta).
- Geodetic Institute of Slovenia (Slovenia).
- Sociedad de Desarrollo Medioambiental de Aragón, S.A.U. (Spain).
- Agencia de Gestión Agraria y Pesquera de Andalucía (Spain).
- Internet New Generation Foundation (FING) (France).
- Greek Free / Open Source Software Society (GFOSS) (Greece).
- Collectivite Territoriale de Corse (France).
- University Mediterranean (Montenegro).