

Challenges and opportunities for local authorities in supporting Euro-Mediterranean cooperation

This study* explores the **role of Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) in Euro-Mediterranean cooperation**, drawing on a targeted survey conducted in April 2025. It highlights key challenges and opportunities; showcases local success stories; and offers forward-looking insights, including indicators to better assess the impact of LRA initiatives in the region.

Across the Mediterranean, LRAs are working to address common challenges



Leading the Climate Transition

- **Karak, Jordan** cut emissions by 40% through a solar energy plan, green buildings, and climate training.
- **Nabeul, Tunisia** rebuilt flood resilience with river rerouting, reforestation, and nature-based infrastructure.



Promoting Inclusive Socio-Economic Development

- **Zgharta-Ehden, Lebanon** promoted youth and women's entrepreneurship in circular economy sectors, launching new businesses and a local innovation hub.



City-to-City Cooperation as a Lever for Innovation

- **Amman & Milan** worked together on food waste reduction, engaging local communities and co-developing a sustainable food strategy.



Tackling Root Causes of Irregular Migration

- **Oriental Region, Morocco** in partnership with local authorities from **Spain and Sweden** raised awareness among 1,500+ youth on irregular migration risks and created tools for local job access.



Advancing Digital and Smart City Strategies

- **Algiers, Algeria** launched Smart City 2035 programme, supporting 300+ startups and modernising public services through local tech hubs.



Culture and Dialogue for Regional Cohesion

- **The Mediterranean Capitals of Culture and Dialogue** foster intercultural exchange and shared identity through city-led arts and education programmes.

Challenges and opportunities for local authorities in supporting Euro-Mediterranean cooperation

Key enablers of local action for stronger results in Euro-Mediterranean cooperation

Simplified and inclusive access to funding

Streamline application procedures, reduce co-financing requirements, and offer targeted support to help municipalities of all sizes participate in EU programmes

Capacity-building and technical support

Invest in local staff, training, and dedicated cooperation units to strengthen municipal ability to design, manage, and deliver cross-border projects

Formal inclusion in regional governance

Create structured channels for LRAs to contribute to policy design, programme planning, and decision-making processes at the Euro-Mediterranean level

Stronger coordination between national and local authorities

Align national strategies with local priorities through multilevel dialogue, shared planning, and legal frameworks that empower LRAs

Support for thematic leadership by LRAs

Recognise and resource the local role in key areas like climate action, digital transition, youth inclusion, and migration response

Peer learning, partnerships, and visibility

Expand decentralised cooperation, city-to-city exchanges, and good practice sharing—while improving access to information through multilingual, user-friendly platforms