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**Conference Paper**

## Mediterranean Cooperation Centers

39th Congress of the European Regional Science Association: "Regional Cohesion and Competitiveness in 21st Century Europe", August 23 - 27, 1999, Dublin, Ireland

**Provided in Cooperation with:**

European Regional Science Association (ERSA)

*Suggested Citation:* Zohar, Aharon (1999) : Mediterranean Cooperation Centers, 39th Congress of the European Regional Science Association: "Regional Cohesion and Competitiveness in 21st Century Europe", August 23 - 27, 1999, Dublin, Ireland, European Regional Science Association (ERSA), Louvain-la-Neuve

This Version is available at:

<https://hdl.handle.net/10419/114378>

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## **“Mediterranean Cooperation Centers”**

### **The Vision**

The perception of this vision goes beyond the nation-state, by seeking stability and prosperity through international cooperation frameworks. The goal of this vision is to highlight the synergy and development opportunities arising from the broader perspectives of siting cooperation centers along the borders of the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries. These centers will benefit from economies of scale and different competitive advantages, will reduce, to some extent, the risk of violence among nations, and will strengthen the periphery.

The Mediterranean Cooperation Centers (MCCs) will be an integral part of the economic and social structure of the countries of which they are a part. This will determine, with the assistance of the European Community, their level of development and unique characteristics.

The MCCs will serve as a model of

- international cooperation;
- sectoral integration;
- private sector involvement;
- regard for cultural heritage and community needs of the local population;
- strict protection of the environment.

## **Executive Summary**

This document outlines a proposal for the establishment of nine cooperation centers along the borders of the countries on the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea. These centers will be hubs of economic, social and other activities which will serve the entire Mediterranean basin, the respective countries and regional populations, and private entrepreneurs.

The productive sectors in the MCCs will rely on modern services and infrastructure systems, the establishment of which will be financed mostly by the European Community and to a lesser extent by the participating countries.

The proposed fields of development in each MCC will be determined based on the physical conditions, the competitive advantages and feasibility of implementation.

In the MCCs, focus will be placed on the use of modern technology, on developing human resources, on community development and on strict environmental protection. The MCCs will encompass functions which will serve the entire Mediterranean basin such as centers for coastal zone management, marine pollution prevention, combating desertification, use of alternative energy sources and air quality monitoring. The first stage envisions setting up two pilot MCCs among countries that are most receptive to the idea.

The MCCs will be managed by a council comprising representatives of the participating countries and the European Community.

"The materials of planning are sky, space, trees, steel and cement in that order and in that hierarchy." Le Corbusier

## 1. Introduction

The European Community has a vital interest in ensuring stability and prosperity in the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries. At present some of these countries are involved in conflicts, whilst their economic and social situations deteriorate and become more troublesome. This situation could jeopardize stability in the Mediterranean Basin and in Europe itself.

Lasting solutions to most of these conflicts will only be achieved through concerted efforts over a span of time, in many spheres, predominantly in the realm of politics and diplomacy. We believe that even small attempts at initiating socio-economic activities involving all the partners will make an equal contribution to solving some of the problems. The presentation of such socio-economic activities, even when the political climate does not appear to be conducive to their immediate and successful realization, constitutes the rationale of this concept.

Development planning deals with a wide range of human activities. The specific factors that determine the nature, direction and pace of development are physical resources, human potential and respective economic, social and environmental constraints. Achievement of international cooperation necessitates the study of possible fields of cooperation and the definition and evaluation of concrete options. The plan presented here is modular and independent of the existing political establishments, with no prejudices imposed on its findings and recommendations. This will enable the broad screening of alternatives and options, and will provide a sound basis for decision making under different political scenarios.

I am grateful to **Mr. Eitan Benzur**, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Mr. Harry Kney-Tal**, Deputy Director General for Policy Planning and **Mr. Baruch Leon Arons**, without whose support and advice the study would not have been possible.

## **2. Regional Profile**

The south and east coasts of the Mediterranean Sea are a well defined geographic entity, located at the crossroads of Asia, Europe and Africa. The region is characterized by the following:

### **a. Low precipitation**

The greater part of the region is desert, with average rainfall less than 100 mm per year. Only narrow strips in the north eastern and north western parts of the region receive adequate rainfall.

### **b. Mild topography**

The topography in the region is relatively mild, with the exception of a number of mountain ranges in the east and in the west (the Atlas Mountains). This feature facilitates regional accessibility.

### **c. Scarce water resources**

The climatic, geological and topographical conditions in the region determine the relative scarcity of water resources. The principal aquifers are located in the following geological formations:

- Alluvium in the valleys, wadis and coastal plains, in particular in the Nile and Euphrates Valleys.
- Marine sedimentary rocks widely found along the coastlines.
- Nubian sandstone in Egypt, Libya and Algeria.

The principal surface water resources in the region are the Nile and the Euphrates Rivers, whose resources are outside of the region. The other rivers are relatively small.

The quantity and quality of water resources differ, both within countries and from one country to another. The growth in population, rise in standard of living and increasing urbanization pose a serious threat to the water and agricultural sectors in the region, in that they lead to soaring water demand and accelerated pollution of water resources. As a result, water scarcity in the region is growing.

Water surpluses exist in Turkey, Lebanon and Morocco. With proper management, such surpluses may also be expected in Syria and Egypt, where the scarcity is caused mainly by wasteful utilization.

#### **d. Low stock of arable land**

The stock of habitable and arable land in the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries is limited: less than 25% of the land area, except for Turkey, Cyprus, Malta, Gaza and Syria(see Table 1). Development of new lands is, for most countries, not economically feasible.

#### **e. Abundance of energy sources**

Some countries in the region (Syria, Egypt, Libya and Algeria) are endowed with independent energy sources: oil and natural gas. It should be noted that some 60% of the world's oil reserves, found mainly in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the Gulf Emirates, are concentrated close to the region under discussion. The oil is of high quality and easily accessible.

#### **f. National and religious similarities**

About 95% of the inhabitants of the region belong to the Arab nation and are of the Moslem faith.

#### **g. Low standard of living**

The standard of living in most of the countries, except for Israel, Malta and Cyprus which enjoy a relatively high standard of living (see Table 1), is extremely low, despite a relative wealth of natural resources and land for development.

### **3. Mediterranean Cooperation Centers (MCCs)**

The plan suggests concentration of economic and other activities in centers with urban characteristics along the borders of neighboring countries, along the southern and eastern coastline of the Mediterranean Sea.

#### **3.1 Objectives of the plan**

The objectives of the plan are to:

- Encourage regional cooperation and integration.
- Create confidence-building measures among the partners.
- Establish commitments that will reduce the likelihood of hostile activities.
- Raise the standard of living.
- Promote regional and national economies.
- Create additional sources of income.

The aims of the proposal are to:

- Present the potential benefits inherent in cooperation between the partners.
- Present projects whose implementation will increase the size of the existing pie.
- Present a methodology that will help determine an order of priorities for development of joint projects and for allocation of resources for their implementation.

**Table 1**  
**Regional Profile<sup>1)</sup>**

Country	Population (millions 1994)	Area (thousand sq. km.)	Coastline (km)	Arable land (% of area)	Irrigated land (% of arable land)	Annual fresh water withdrawal (cu. km.)	GNP Per Capita Dollars 1994      Av. Ann. growth % (1985-94)		Av. Annual growth rate (%) 1990-94	Adult illiteracy %
Turkey	60.8	779	7200	30	3	33.5	2,500	1.4	2.0	18
Syria	13.8	185	193	28	3	NA	2,300	-2.1	NA	NA
Lebanon	3.9	10	225	21	7	NA	1,400	NA	NA	8
Israel	5.4	21	273	17	11	1.9	14,530	2.3	NA	0
Gaza	0.9	0.4	40	32	74	0.1	NA	NA	3.6	NA
Egypt	56.8	1,001	2,450	3	2	56.4	720	1.3	3.7	49
Libya <sup>2)</sup>	5.2	1,759	1,770	1	NA	NA	6,800	NA	2.9	NA
Tunisia	8.8	164	1,148	20	1	2.3	1,790	2.1	NA	33
Algeria	27.4	2,382	998	NA	NA	3.0	1,650	-2.5	3.0	38
Morocco	26.4	447	1,835	18	1	10.9	1,140	1.2	4.2	56
Cyprus	0.7	9	648	40	10	NA	10,260	4.6	2.6	NA
Malta	0.4	0.3	140	38	3	NA	NA	5.1	NA	NA

1) Sources: The World Bank, World Development Report, 1996 and The Universal Almanac 1995.

2) We do not rule out Libya from the regional cooperation framework in the future.

### **3.2. Location principles**

The location of the regions is determined based on the following principles:

#### **a. Along the borders between the partners**

The location of the MCCs is based on the above-mentioned concept, which states that the creation of economic commitment will decrease the probability of hostile activities since each side involved will have something to lose.

#### **b. Concentration of activities**

Concentration of economic activities will result in economies of scale and in conservation of precious land resources. It follows the principle of concentrated deconcentration: removal of the centers from the present focal points on the one hand, and concentration of economic activities in the MCCs for the reasons described above, on the other.

#### **c. Exploitation of competitive advantages**

Each of the centers has its own competitive advantages. A significant part of the proposed activities, such as agriculture and tourism, are dependent on climatic, topographic, panoramic and other merits. Fields such as shopping and sports centers, for examples, are less sensitive to location principles than others.

#### **d. Reinforcement of the periphery**

The program proposes the establishment of MCCs on the periphery rather than at the existing centers. Border areas are predominantly weaker and sparsely settled, and establishing MCCs will generate progress for such areas and its population. In addition, establishing MCCs in these areas will be relatively easier in the absence of massive development.

#### **e. Utilizing the Mediterranean coastline.**

Establishment of all but two MCCs along the coast will enhance their accessibility and add tourism benefits as sea resorts. In the area under consideration nine MCCs can be located along the borders of the following countries (see Map 1):

MCC 1: Turkey-Syria

MCC 2: Syria-Lebanon-Israel

MCC 3: Jordan-Syria-Israel

MCC 4: Egypt-Gaza Strip-Israel

MCC 5: Egypt-Libya

MCC 6: Libya-Tunisia

MCC 7: Tunisia-Algeria

MCC 8: Algeria-Morocco

MCC 9: Cyprus

### **3.3 Benefits deriving from cooperation**

One) Removal of restrictions relating particularly to cross-border movements of goods, capital and personnel.

Two) Integration of economic activities: maximization of competitive advantages, better exploitation of shared resources and improved infrastructure.

Three) Sharing and application of technologies, R&D and services.

Four) Possibilities to integrate projects.

Five) Improved flow of information.

Six) Joint action on common concerns which cross boundaries (i.e. environmental issues).

Seven) Mutual reduction of tariff and trade barriers.

Eight) Opportunities for private sector investments through the creation of positive environments.

Nine) Impact on tourism through increased number of visitors to the region.



## **4. Characteristics of the MCCs**

The MCCs will be an integral part of the economic and social structure of the countries of which they are a part and their level of development and unique characteristics will be determined in large part by the respective countries. Advanced communications technology will enable direct contact between the MCCs and other parts of the world. Each center will develop its own particular competitive advantages.

The MCCs are meant to serve as models in the following areas:

### **a. Core and periphery**

The majority of the activities are concentrated in the core of the MCC, which receives inputs from the periphery, including energy (power and fuel), water, roads and raw materials.

### **b. Density of activities**

The core will be as compact as possible in order to save land resources and energy.

### **c. Common services**

The various projects in the MCCs will be able to benefit from common services such as banking, insurance, communications, advertising, management advisory services, etc. Concentration of the services will help to lower their cost.

### **d. Connection with surroundings**

The MCCs will be an integral part of the immediate surrounding and the activities carried out in them will be integrated with communal life in the area.

#### **e. Environmental protection**

All precautions will be taken to ensure that the MCCs do not cause pollution of the environment (see section 5.8).

### **5. Sectoral aspects regarding the MCCs**

MCCs will encompass the following activities:

- productive activities including industry, tourism and agriculture;
- infrastructure and services including water supply, energy, transport, health services, education and communication;
- housing.

#### **5.1 Industry**

Development of the industrial sector in the MCCs will be initiated and implemented by the private sector, based on the following principles:

- emphasis on export;
- utilization of competitive advantages, deriving from rapid innovations and improvements, to achieve and sustain high productivity and specialization so as to arrive at a critical mass in the particular field;
- incorporation of other sectors;
- adapting anti trust policy to ensure rivalry;
- matching type and scope of production to existing and planned infrastructure;
- adapting type and scope of production to changing conditions in the global market;
- adopting the most advanced production standards and the best available technology;
- compliance with the most stringent environmental standards.

The industrial parks will be located relatively far from residential areas, so as to safeguard residents from environmental hazards and nuisances. Their location adjacent

to airports or ports will facilitate convenient import of raw materials and convenient export of products.

The industrial sector will enjoy a high level of services and infrastructure such as: banking, transportation, energy, telecommunication, training, marketing, and others.

## **5.2 Tourism**

The southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea are characterized by a high number of sunny days during the year and as such are ideal for recreation tourism. The southern shores of the Mediterranean Sea, with their calm sea and sandy beaches, are particularly suitable. The tourism sector creates employment (both in the realm of accommodation and in the associated services) and constitutes an important source of foreign revenue.

Hotels and other tourist facilities will be located outside of urban centers along the seashore, at distances which will allow for open beaches, wide enough for tourists and vacationers. Tourists will be offered a range of entertainment opportunities both within the tourist complex itself (including restaurants and entertainment facilities) and out, such as excursions to sites of interests and desert excursions.

Here too environmental protection will be paramount, and will be instituted through limiting hotel room capacity to the carrying capacity of the environment, and through providing the most advanced solutions for the treatment of wastewater and solid waste produced by the tourists.

The establishment of tourist projects in several MCCs may justify the creation of a joint marketing apparatus and a common manpower training center.

### **5.3 Agriculture**

The single source of water for the agricultural sector will be treated wastewater which will determine the amount of agricultural produce. The mild climate will permit the cultivation of winter crops of vegetables, fruits and flowers in most of the MCCs.

Agriculture, which will undergo industrialization, will be largely centered in greenhouses, and will utilize the most advanced technology which will ensure maximum water savings (through computer-controlled irrigation systems and use of economical irrigation such as drip irrigation), maximum savings in labor (through use of advanced technology) maximum savings in area and environmental protection (by using integrated pest management and protecting the quality of groundwater). Particular emphasis will be placed on developing aquaculture, both in cages located in the sea and in inland seawater ponds.

### **5.4 Water**

The majority of countries in the region suffer from an increasing shortage of water, stemming from a rising demand due to population growth, urbanization, and a steep rise in the standard of living of the region's inhabitants. However, water shortages are also largely a result of wasteful utilization and pollution of water resources, eliminating increasing amounts of water for a variety of uses and exacerbating the existing scarcity. Great importance is attached to preserving water resources from overexploitation and pollution, on the one hand, and to increasing the efficiency of utilization and developing new water resources, on the other.

The main long-term solution to the problem of water in the region as well as in the MCCs lies in efficient harnessing of solar energy for a) wastewater treatment, using the effluent for irrigation; and b) desalination of seawater and brackish water for domestic purposes.

Other solutions that will be adopted are increasing present water use efficiency by applying modern technologies and establishing a system of incentives for water conservation.

## **5.5 Energy**

In the absence of energy sources in the proximity, the MCCs will receive energy from coastal power stations operating on natural gas. Coal or liquid oil/fuel for energy production will be used only if natural gas is not available, and with strict compliance to environmental protection standards.

Efforts will be made to utilize renewable energy sources, primarily solar and wind. R&D into these subjects will be encouraged. Focus will be placed on energy savings and energy efficiency, and the relay stations and electricity conduction system within the centers will be underground.

## **5.6 Transport**

Emphasis will be placed on improving existing transportation routes and developing new routes between the MCCs and the major urban centers in the countries which they serve, between the MCCs themselves, and between the MCCs and Europe. Although the Mediterranean Sea constitutes the most convenient and cheapest communication route, efforts will be made to rely only on existing ports and thereby prevent the establishment of new ports, so as to obviate the negative impact on the natural and human environment, and the high costs entailed.

An airport will be built a significant distance from residential areas, so as to minimize the nuisance of noise. A railway and highway will link the airport with the center of the MCC.

Within the MCC area, priority will be given to electricity-driven mass transportation, for which separate routes will be designated. Management Transportation Systems

and Intelligent Vehicle Highway Systems (IVHS) will be used in order to develop and harmonize traffic in the MCCs.

## **5.7 Telecommunications and information**

Access to the new engineering information society will be facilitated by more efficient information and communications infrastructures. The development of efficient and modern telecommunication and information systems is a prerequisite for the development of most of the production and service systems in the MCCs. The information systems of the MCCs will connect the centers with one another and with information systems in Europe. All the telecommunication infrastructure, which will be based on optical fibers, will be underground.

## **5.8 Environmental protection**

This issue is considered on two planes:

### **a. Involvement of the MCCs in environmental protection in the entire Mediterranean basin**

Although the Mediterranean basin comprises different geographic units, it may be regarded as a single environmental system: its countries are faced with similar environmental problems and seek similar solutions. The principal causes of environmental problems in the Mediterranean basin are increase of population, accelerated industrialization and urbanization and expansion of tourism.

The nations of the Mediterranean basin enjoy common air, water, land and beaches, making them particularly sensitive to transboundary pollution. Cooperation is therefore essential in a number of fields in order to overcome the region's environmental problem and to reach sustainable development.

The establishment of systems for regional cooperation can contribute to improvement of the environment. Such cooperation should be based on the following:

a) environmental administration on a high professional level; b) action plans for control and prevention of environmental pollution; c) programs for handling of environmental emergencies; d) exchange of know-how and experts.

The main fields of cooperation are:

- **Coastal zone management**

Both natural and man-made processes cause degradation of coastal areas. In order to prevent the continued destruction of the shores and the irreversible damage to natural and historic assets, intensive efforts are required which will focus on preventative elements. It is proposed that these activities be concentrated in the MCCs and include:

- \* Support in preparing a coastal zone management plan, its implementation and follow up.
- \* Upgrading of data collection and planning capabilities of scientific and planning agencies.
- \* Protection of remaining ecologically sensitive coastal areas.
- \* Conservation of cultural heritage sites.
- \* Conservation and national management of fish stocks.

- **Marine pollution prevention**

Being a closed basin, the Mediterranean Sea traps large quantities of pollutants originating in the countries bordering it. Despite the great progress made in this field, the situation still requires drastic improvement.

Marine pollution caused by poor operation and accidents may be prevented by close international cooperation, including prevention, control and rehabilitation programs, on the one hand, and protection of sensitive coastal areas, on the other. It was proposed that a regional system be set up to provide early warning of marine pollution events. The system would be manned by qualified personnel and fitted

with advanced equipment for overcoming occurrences of pollution. It is proposed that all activities pertaining to preventing pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, early location of pollution events and handling sea pollution be concentrated in the MCCs.

- **Air quality**

Air pollutants, like marine pollutants, may be carried from one country to another. Accordingly, air is considered a regional resource, common to all the nations of the Mediterranean Sea, and must therefore be protected from pollution. Cooperation in this field may be expanded by setting up a regional air monitoring system, by reaching agreements on emissions standards, and by a gradual shift to use of natural gas and alternative sources of energy.

It is proposed that all management activities pertaining to this field, including setting up an air monitoring system, be concentrated in the MCCs.

- **Use of alternative energy sources**

Alternative sources of energy, and in particular solar and wind energy, possess a potential that has yet to be fully realized. The advantage of these sources lies in the fact that they are environmentally clean. The Mediterranean basin is noted for its sunshine, which justifies the concentration of research efforts in utilization of this source of energy.

It is proposed that all R&D activities in the above be concentrated in the MCCs.

- **Combating desertification**

Most of the countries in the region are undergoing a process of desertification, caused, among other things, by the diminishing water resources. Preservation of the existing water resources and creation of new sources are accordingly prerequisites for maintaining the existing cultivated areas and extending the forest and savanna areas in the region. Development of advanced technologies, including plant varieties resistant to arid conditions, can also contribute significantly to combating desertification. It is proposed that the MCCs host centers to combat desertification.

- **Conservation of nature**

Besides its environmental importance, conservation of natural resources is vital from an economic point of view as well, since it affects internal and external tourism. It is proposed that the MCCs concentrate the activities regarding conservation of nature including R&D.

## **ii) Environmental protection within the MCC boundaries**

The MCCs will serve as a model of sustainable development combined with environmental protection. The environmental protection policies in the MCCs will be based on the following principles:

- Integration of environmental protection concerns in the overall and sectoral policies.
- Integrated management of natural assets, soils, water and coastal areas.
- Resource management: sustainable use of renewable and non-renewable resources and energy.
- Emphasis will be placed on use of best available technologies to prevent pollution and disturbances.

Environmental protection in the MCCs will be expressed in the following fields:

- Priority to using renewable energies and natural gas. Use of the coal or liquid fuel will necessitate compliance with strict environmental standards.
- Wastewater treatment of high quality, using solar energy, and utilization of treated wastewater for agricultural irrigation.
- Integrated waste management policy: encouraging reduction of waste at source, reuse and recycling.
- Supervision over reducing local nuisances: disturbances caused by noise, odor and local air pollution.

## **5.9 Human resource development**

Attracting top caliber personnel to the MCCs is cardinal for the realization of the concept, and will determine whether the project will succeed or fail. Initially efforts will be made to attract such personnel by offering them improved employment, improved services and housing conditions, but at the same time plans must be made for nurturing a high caliber manpower cader. Priority will be given to advancing vocational education. Institutes of higher education and R&D will be directly subsidized, and specialized education and training centers of excellence will be created.

Particular attention will be given to equal opportunities for women in all the fields, and to advancing the employment conditions and social rights of all the employees.

## **5.10 Health**

The medical centers which will be established in the MCCs will be noteworthy for their high standards, both in terms of staff and medical equipment. Consideration will be given to the possibility that these centers will serve not only the MCC residents but also other populations, as a source of income.

## **5.11 Culture and community**

The MCCs will serve as centers for cultural gatherings which, by bringing together people and institutions, will foster dialogue between religions, cultures and nations. Such dialogue is important in creating closer ties between people, and in improving the mutual understanding and respect between the parties.

It is proposed that the concept of the *Matnas*<sup>\*</sup>, which has been highly successful in Israel, be incorporated within this framework. A *Matnas* is a community center operated by a combination of neighborhood elected leadership, community lay people and multi-disciplinary professionals. Definition of goals, priorities and community

agendas are decided on through substantive interaction between representatives of the community and the authorities, on an open circuit, thus narrowing the gap between citizens and the political processes which influence their lives and welfare. The goals of the project are:

- a. ) to upgrade living conditions and physical infrastructure;
- b. ) to improve the quality of social services;
- c. ) to enlarge the possibilities for social and economic mobility;
- d. ) to assist weaker population groups;
- e. ) to increase communal responsibilities of the inhabitants;
- f. ) to enhance development of human resources;
- g. ) to strengthen the commitment to environmental protection;
- h. ) to strengthen the economic infrastructure in the neighborhood and development of local business ventures.

## **5.12 Housing**

The centers (except for two) will be oriented towards the sea, with a wide promenade running along the seashore and no high-rise buildings along the sea. The design of the residential buildings will take into account the climate, topography and cultural and social characteristics of the population. The locations of the shopping centers will be such as to provide easy access, and the architecture will be governed by climatic considerations (see Map 2).

## **6. Sectoral Integration**

A discussion on general regional issues must of necessity precede a discussion on specific sectors, the rationale being to identify at the outset subjects of common interest, thus saving precious time and resources.

Since most of the potential fields of development are interrelated, they may best be treated jointly rather than individually. A discussion on water, for example, cannot be

divorced from the subjects of energy, agriculture, tourism and industry. In addition,



the larger the number of activities, the greater the advantage that may be derived from economies of scale.

The importance of comprehensive regional planning is rooted in the fact that it provides effective tools for determining orders of priorities, defining goals and allocating resources for their attainment. The planning process will identify political, economic engineering and organizational options, suited to the physical and socio-economic conditions in the region, as detailed below.

It is recommended that the manner in which the various sectors are integrated, and the initial screening of the proposed fields for each of the MCCs, be as follows:

**a. Determining sectoral needs**

At this stage, the needs of the different sectors (primary and secondary) will be determined (see Table 2):

- Physical needs: climate, soils, water, topography and minerals.
- Infrastructure: energy, transport and other.
- Human resource needs: labor force and advanced technology.
- Tourist needs: natural attractions, historical sites and cultural attractions.

**b. Proposed fields of development**

At this stage the proposed fields of development according to each MCC will be taken into account regarding feasibility of implementation, as demonstrated in Table 3. This is only an initial proposal which requires more in-depth evaluation.



**Table 2 - Cont.**

Main Field of cooperation	Secondary fields	Physical needs					Infrastructure needs			Human needs			Tourism needs		
		Climate	Soil	Water resources	Topography	Minerals	Transport systems	Energy sources	Other infrastructure	Labor	Advanced technology	R&D	Natural attractions	Historical sites	Cultural attractions
Science	Regional university									+	+	+			
	Regional information center Conference center									+	+				
Services	Free trade zone				+		+	+	+						
	Shopping centers				+		+	+	+	+					
	Banks									+					
	Insurance									+					
Sports	Regional sports center				+										
	Water sports			+											
	Air gliding	+			+										
	Winter sports	+			+										
	Diving			+							+				
Tourism	Recreational tourism	+								+					
	Sightseeing tourism									+			+	+	+
	Winter tourism	+													
	Pilgrimages													+	+
	Desert tourism												+	+	+
	Health tourism	+		+									+		
	Diving			+											
	Hotel services	+			+		+	+	+	+					
	Related services	+					+	+	+	+					
	Rural recreation	+								+					
Transportation	Roads				+		+								
	Railways				+		+								
	Seaports						+	+	+	+					
	Airports				+		+	+	+	+					
Water	Interstate water transfers			+	+			+							
	Floodwater control		+	+	+										
	Wastewater treatment	+			+			+			+	+			
	Brackish water treatment	+		+	+			+			+	+			
	Seawater desalination	+		+	+			+			+	+			

**Table 3**  
**Mediterranean Cooperation Centers**  
**Proposed Fields of Development**

Fields of cooperation	Mediterranean Cooperation Centers								
	MCC1	MCC2	MCC3	MCC4	MCC5	MCC6	MCC7	MCC8	MCC9
<u>Agriculture:</u>									
- Greenhouse cultivation	+			+	+	+	+	+	+
- Subtropical plantations			+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Deciduous trees	+	+							
- Dairy farms	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Pasture		+	+						+
- Poultry farms	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Fisheries	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Inland fisheries	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
- Aquaculture			+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Agricultural research	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
-Agricultural extension	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<u>Culture:</u>									
- Cultural centers (Matnas)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<u>Energy:</u>									
- Gas power station	+			+	+	+	+	+	+
- Hydroelectric power		+	+						
- Interstate power transfer	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Solar energy			+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Wind turbines		+	+						
- Oil pipelines	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	
<u>Environmental protection:</u>									
- Solid waste treatment	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Recycling	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Wastewater treatment	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<u>Health:</u>									
- Medical centers	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<u>Industry:</u>									
- Industrial parks	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<u>Science:</u>									
- Regional university	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Regional information center	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Regional conference center	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<u>Services:</u>									
- Commercial free zone	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Shopping centers	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Banking	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Insurance	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<u>Tourism:</u>									
- Recreational tourism				+	+	+	+	+	+
- Sightseeing tourism	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Desert tourism				+	+	+	+	+	+
- Hotel industry	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Entertainment	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<u>Sports:</u>									
- Sports center	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Water sports	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Winter sports		+							
<u>Transportation:</u>									
- Roads	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Railways	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Seaports							+		
- Airports	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<u>Water:</u>									
- Floodwater control	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+
- Seawater desalination				+	+	+	+	+	+

## **7. Translating the Plan into Action**

The first stage envisions setting up two pilot MCCs among countries that are most receptive to the idea. It is suggested that the first two MCCs be located along the borders of:

- Gaza, Egypt and Israel
- Tunisia and Algeria

The MCCs will be managed by a council comprising representatives of the participating countries (90%) and of the European Community (10%). Infrastructure will be financed by the European Community up to two thirds, with the rest financed by the participating countries.

Planning will take into account:

- The identify of the inhabitants, their culture, the heritage of the place and its customs.
- Community interests of the local population, through their participation in planning.

### **7.1 The role of the public sector**

Public sector intervention is needed to ensure that:

One)planning is effectively carried out, taking into consideration physical, environmental and socio-economic constraints;

Two)resources are harnessed and managed for the mutual benefit of participants in the development process;

Three)policies and investments are made to upgrade the quality of education, the physical infrastructure and R&D;

Four)proper environment is created to encourage private sector involvement in the process.

### **7.2 The role of the private sector**

Efforts will be made to attract private investors who will enjoy a variety of incentives, such as those associated with a free trade zone.

