



C12 30 COMB-Commission 'MEDITERRANEAN BASIN'
COMB- Commission 'BASSIN DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE'

Prepared by Maria Paradiso, COMB Chair

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A. Membership

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Corresponding members:

The total number of corresponding members by December 2013 was: **160. A good amount comes from developing countries.**

Members come from: Algeria, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey, UK, and US.

The majority of colleagues from MENA countries use yahoo or gmail accounts.

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B. Meetings

Given the political situation, it was not safe to arrange meetings in North Africa, so that meeting took place during IGU Conferences and in Europe.

In the 2012 IGU Congress in Cologne the IGU Special Project MRP turned into the first IGU regional commission.

Cologne IGU Congress, August 2012:

Several slots under:

1. Towards a democratic Maghreb-Mashreq? Critical examinations of change and permanence (co-organisers and chairs Maria Paradiso, Ali Toumi)

http://www.igu2012.org/frontend/index.php?page_id=400&ses_id=58d20de596281490f2a83de29b6d7d2b.

2. Recent development of geography of energy (with a special relevance to Mediterranean) (co-organisers Maria Paradiso, Stan Brunn, Kentucky University) Chairs: Maria Paradiso & Stan Brunn

http://www.igu2012.org/frontend/index.php?page_id=400&ses_id=58d20de596281490f2a83de29b6d7d2b

3. Mediterranean Information Society. Joint session co-organised with Commission C08.14 Geography of the Global Information Society (Chairs: Maria Paradiso & Mark Wilson)

4. Climate change in the areas with Mediterranean climate: characteristics, mitigation and adaptation. Joint session co-organised with Commission Climate C04: Climatology (Chair: Annick Douguédroit).

5. Commission business meeting.

AAG-Association of American Geographers, NY, February 2012:

Media and social justice in Mediterranean Democratic Movements. Joint session with IGU Commission Geography of Global Information Society initiated and arranged by Maria Paradiso (COMB).

IGU Kyoto Conference, August 2013:

- Changing settlements in the Mediterranean and the Gulf : critical views and implications (2 slots)

- Traditional wisdom and modernity: ICT and intangible culture (joint with GEOGRAPHY OF GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY)

- Local and regional development in the Mediterranean basin (Joint session with the Commission on Local Development)

BM30	Business Meeting	MEDITERRANEAN BASIN	Tuesday 06 August	14:00-15:30	Room504 1
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- EUGEO ROME September 2013: IGU COMB session (2 slots) arranged and chaired by Maria Paradiso and Sebastian Lenz

Session code:	S22
Session title:	New spatialities: Europe and its neighbouring regions
Organizer(s):	Sebastian Lenz (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography and Leipzig University), Maria Paradiso (University of Sannio) paradiso@unisannio.it
Type of session:	paper session
Number of slots	2

b. A **brief** summary of the topics addressed at each meeting and the findings or conclusions resulting from the discussions if appropriate.

New ideas and insights identified at each meeting and their immediate and long-term theoretical and practical implications include assessment of so called Arab Spring and possible future implications; issues of conceptuality and imaginations of Mediterranean Region beyond Orientalism and Mediterraneism; new directions for Mediterranean mobilities/migration; the transformations of societies and settlement in light of Gulf States transformations and neo-liberalism approaches; initial impacts of climate changes on societies.

c. The meetings or other events to hold in 2014 and later years.

-Kracow IGU Conference August 2014 tentative program:

50	C12.30 Mediterranean Basin	Mediterranean changes and challenges	Maria Paradiso paradiso@unisannio.it	COMB session series would like to initially disentangle some of the official and popular movements, flows, implicit and not-so-implicit trends in MENA transitions after the 2011 democratic movements and reflect on drivers of change and implications of contemporary Mediterranean basin trends. We also welcome papers from the perspectives of 'inner seas' shared by different countries also calling attention to the 'new' EU'ropean space making beyond the EU borders. As Steinberg stated (2009) the construction of the sea as an 'outside' space of mobility is a main element in modern spatial politics as it is intimately linked to the construction of 'inside' space. The topics of cooperation and regional change, changes and challenges are preferably examined from a critical reflexive perspective. The theme includes a broad spectrum of topics and from a
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				variety of perspectives : migration and virtual/corporeal mobilities, spatialities and phantasies of macro-regional structuring; diversity and inclusion, interfaith (included the Muslims one) relations and implications in the 'region'; crisis and impacts at different scales. Unconventional views stemmed from par example the spatialities of affect and emotion and reflections on reconciliatory practices are appreciated, for instance those originated from the arts, the cyberspace interactions, activism, NGOs.	
51	C12.30 Mediterranean Basin	Mediterranean Basin: changes, challenges, responsibilities I	Maria Paradiso paradiso@unisannio.it		
C12.30 Mediterranean Basin	The Adriatic-Ionian sea: challenges in planning the future	Anton Gosar anton.gosar@guest.arnes.si		C12.30 Mediterranean Basin	T se pl
52	C12.30 Mediterranean Basin	Mediterranean Basin: changes, challenges, responsibilities II	Maria Paradiso paradiso@unisannio.it		
53	C12.30 Mediterranean Basin	Ethnic minorities, structures of mobility in a global reality In cooperation with EUFP7 MC IRSES 'MEDCHANGe' 612639	Maria Paradiso Izhak Schnell paradiso@unisannio.it schnell@post.tau.ac.il		
54	C12.30 Mediterranean Basin	Change and challenges in the Mediterranean: spatial dynamics, imaginaries and migrations following "Arab Spring"	Frank Babinger Ali Bennisr fbabinger@ucm.es abennisr@hotmail.f	"Arab Spring", are turning over in an Arab	
55	C12.30 Mediterranean Basin	Middle East and North African Cities in turmoil	Roman Stadnicki Maria Paradiso roman.stadnicki@cedej-eg.org paradiso@unisannio.it		
56	C12.30 Mediterranean Basin	Climate change and its impacts on lives and activities in the Mediterranean Basin I	Annick Douguédroit Latifa Henia annick.douguedroit@univ-amu.fr		
57	C12.30 Mediterranean Basin	Climate change and its impacts on lives and activities in the Mediterranean Basin II	Annick Douguédroit Latifa Henia annick.douguedroit@univ-amu.fr		
15	C12.30 Mediterranean Basin	Urban Challenges for Mediterranean	Rosa Pineira, Maria Paradiso	.	

	And C12.39 Urban Commission: Urban Challenges in a Complex World	and Gulf Cities		
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Comb participates also in Mega Events thematic sessions .

- Benevento, January 20-22 2014, Invited Speakers Workshop, **Euromediterranean Changing Relationships** in cooperation with 7FP7 MC IRSES ‘MEDCHANGE’

- La Valletta, Malta *Eurogeo Conference*, session Mediterranean coasts and management issues (co-organisers Milan Bufon, Maria Paradiso).

- Marrakech University, June 2013 with FP7 Marie Curie IRSES ‘MEDCHANGE’, Workshop on **Moroccan gender mobilities, return mobilities**. Also: Field research 2 months with COMB Colleagues from Italy, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Israel and Marrakesh and Casablanca Hassan II Universities.

-Benevento-Caserta October 2014, Workshop and international team field research: Muslim communities integration-exclusion in Naples- Caserta. Workshop is public. Field research open to COMB subgroup MEDCHANGE group 2 weeks.

- Ankara University, Faculty of Language, History and Geography 9th National Turkish Geography Congress. Next year (2014) in October. Keynote Maria Paradiso, also special talk on IGU COMB.

C. Networking

a.

A rich array of joint session initiated by COMB. It developed in the past ties with many Commissions (Gender, Political, Information Society, Climate, Tourism, Cultural Turn, Local Development, Global Mobility). New cooperation are for IGU Kracow with Urban Geography.

In AAG NYC COMB initiated a joint session devoted to social media in Arab Spring with Global Information Commission.

Jointly with Urban Geography COMB has planned a book on Mediterranean Cities (ed. Prof. Rosa Pineira, University of Santiago di Compostela and tbd).

b. Collaboration with other international, intergovernmental, and inter- and multi-disciplinary groups in 2012-2013.

- RESEARCH GRANT: European Commission, 7FP Call People Marie Curie IRSES Research Staff Exchange EuroMediterranean 2013, *MEDCHANGe Project 612639*. Successfully approved, Granted. 48 months Starting month October 2013. Geographers lead in cooperation with International Law, antropologists. Call for participation was circulated in COMB by Maria Paradiso and with some COMB Colleagues Maria prepared the draft, submitted to EU and drove negotiations with EU Research Officers.
- Academia Europaea London (Social Sciences Committee); Academia Europaea 'Mediterranean Hub in Barcelona (Maria Paradiso, for AE Geneveve Marti, Academic Director)
- Young Academia Europaea Initiative (for the benefit of COMB Young Scholars; for AE Prof. J. Peltzer Heidelberg).
- Anna Lindh Foundation (Euromediterranean cultural Cooperation for Union for the Mediterranean), COMB is representative in AL via EUROGEO; COMB has partnerships with Eurogeo for representing on behalf of Eurogeo and COMB Mediterranean focus initiatives where laws admit only Europe-based organisation.
- EUROGEO, the Association of European Geographers
- UN Alliance of Civilisations program focus 'Mediterranean', Label for sponsoring a Conference entitled: 'Migration as mobilities, geographical perspectives from the Mediterranean' has been submitted to the Malta meeting of Foreign Ministers, UN Alliance of Civilisations. We got the label which we are going to use for future COMB Annual Conference.
- AAG-Association of American Geographers
- Eugeo
- the Euro-Med University EMUNI being one of the founding members, Portoroz Slovenia
- the Union for the Mediterranean the EU-Med policy initiative in particular with the Secretariat of Education and Research (Prof. Chet), Secretariat of Social Affairs (Hon. Cecilia Attard).
- the CERES-Centre d'Etudes Sociales-économiques de Tunis.

c. Cooperative efforts with ISSC (International Social Science Council) and with ICSU (the International Council for Science) programs.

Maria Paradiso presented a paper in ISSC Montreal 2013 within the IGU panel 'Geographic and Social Dimension of Digital Age' and collaborated with Mark Wilson and Aharon Kellerman for proposing it. She is member of ICSU Italy Committee since last October and in contact with IGU President and General Secretary for opportune networking in favour of geography visibility and incidence from national basis.

D. Publications

Books:

P.Giaccaria, M. Paradiso (Eds) *Mediterranean Lexicon*, Italian Geographical Society and National IGU Committee Series, Rome, 2012. Presented during IGU Cologne 2012.

A. Douguedroit, T.Terkenly (Eds), *Mediterranean Contemporary Geography*, manuscript, submitted to a publisher (about 12 chapters).

special journal issues:

Academia Europea Journal "Turkey and Europe" edited by Anne Buttimer, Justin Stagl

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=ERW&tab=currentissue>

F. Celata, R. Coletti, *Cross-Border Cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean and Beyond: Between Policy-Transfers and Regional Adaptations*, *Int J Euro-Mediter Stud* (2013) 5:109-120

Le dernier numéro d'EchoGéo qui vous propose un dossier sur le Moyen- Orient par plusieurs COMB members: espaces et passeurs du changement. Sur : <http://echogeo.revues.org/13484>

By COMB member Larry Michalak an article on democracy in Tunisia for a group called the Council for a Community of Democracies. Article is publicly available on the internet at

http://www.diplomatshandbook.org/pdf/Handbook_Tunisia.pdf. The book in which Larry's Tunisia article appears, *A Handbook for Diplomats*, is available online at <http://www.diplomatshandbook.org/>. It has case studies of democracy development in 12 countries.

Planned journal issues:

Europa Regionale, Guest Editors: Sebastian Lenz (University of Lipsia) Maria Paradiso, devoted to Eugeo sessions papers and more applications, on going.

Future Internet, NeoGeography and WikiPlanning 2014 Call is open (editors: Borruso, Murgante, Paradiso).

Newletters: via mails Colleagues are informed and involved on more than one monthly frequency via mailing list. Several IGU EC are included in the mailing list.

b. The current accurate URL of the commission's web site.

We are moving under google+ and Google site. I am reporting the accurate URL later on.

E. Archival Contributions

REPORT TO IGU EC 2008-2012 (as MRP):

IGU International Geographical Union

UGI Union Géographique Internationale



<http://www.igu-net.org>

PROGRAM/PROGRAMME

**MRP-THE MEDITERRANEAN RENAISSANCE
PRM- LA RENAISSANCE DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE**

http://www.igu-net.org/uk/what_is_igu/specialcommittees.html

An IGU programme for the Mediterranean Human Development initiated in 2005 by Late
President Adalberto Vallega

Un programme de l'UGI pour le développement humain de la Méditerranée fondé en 2005 par le
President Adalberto Vallega

**MRP
Report 2008-2012 and Future Plans**

Prepared by Maria Paradiso, Director

(paradiso@unisannio.it)

MRP arranged several sessions in IGU Conferences and own meetings along the years. It developed ties with many Commissions (Political, Information Society, Climate, Tourism, Gender, Cultural Turn, Local Development, Mobility). MRP externally initiated and developed further ties and cooperation with European Academy (Academia Europaea), EUROGEO, the Association of European Geographers, UN Alliance of Civilisations program focus 'Mediterranean', AAG-

Association of American Geographers ,the Euro-Med University EMUNI being one of the founding members, the Union for the Mediterranean the EU-Med policy initiative in particular with the Secretariat of Education and Research, the CERES-Centre d'Etudes Sociales-économiques de Tunis. The list of MRP corresponding members is increasing about 60 members. A MRP is in the making of a book to be published by Springer. Steering and corresponding colleagues published chapters, articles on MRP issues in various loci of publication and countries.

Future Plans and initiatives:

MRP devoted emphasis and efforts to the 2012 IGU Conference in Cologne issuing two call for session(s) :

1. Towards a democratic Maghreb-Mashreq? Critical examinations of change and permanence (co-organisers and chairs Maria Paradiso, Ali Toumi)

http://www.igu2012.org/frontend/index.php?page_id=400&ses_id=58d20de596281490f2a83de29b6d7d2b.

2. Recent development of geography of energy (with a special relevance to Mediterranean) (co-organisers Maria Paradiso, Stan Brunn, Kentucky University)

http://www.igu2012.org/frontend/index.php?page_id=400&ses_id=58d20de596281490f2a83de29b6d7d2b

Chair(s): Maria Paradiso & Stan Brunn

3. A joint session is co-organised with Commission C08.14 Geography of the Global Information Society entitled : Mediterranean Information Society

Chair(s): Maria Paradiso & Mark Wilson

4. A joint session is co-organised with Commission Climate CO4: Climatology: "Climate change in the areas with Mediterranean climate: characteristics, mitigation and adaptation". Chair: Annick Douguédroit.

In Cologne a new business meeting will take place.

2 MRP in AAG-Association of American Geographers, NYC February 2012: MRP-IGU Commission Geography of Global Information Society. Session 'Media and social justice in Mediterranean Democratic Movements'.

Again a collaboration with IGU Commission Geography of Global Information Society (Chair Mark Wilson) will take place in the form of a session entitled: media and social justice in Mediterranean Democratic Movements, which will continue in a broader audience the successful partnership of Athens July by attracting new papers and colleagues.

3 MRP Annual Conference 2012 or 2013. Sponsorship proposal submitted in 2011 to UN Alliance of Civilisations – Mediterranean Alliance.

A proposal for sponsoring a Conference entitled: 'Migration as mobilities, geographical perspectives from the Mediterranean' has been submitted to the Malta meeting of Foreign Ministers, UN Alliance of Civilisations, Mediterranean focus via the Italian Foreign Office. It has been selected and approved in the official UN program of initiative. We got the UN label and we are waiting for financial decisions expected in their next meeting in October.

Past activities:

2011

1. MRP and EUROGEO 2011:

MRP developed further ties and cooperation with EUROGEO, the Association of European Geographers . It proposed a session 'Mediterranean Region: Development Prospects and Challenges, a joint session of the European Academy (Academia Europaea) – Social Sciences Committee - and IGU MRP (International Geographical Union, Mediterranean Renaissance Program), EUROGEO Conference Athens, 2-5 June 2011 : Geography: Your World - A European Perspective

EUROGEO 2011 is a forum for researchers to present and discuss recent advances and developments in Geography and related subjects. Topics of interests include, but are not limited to, economic, cultural, social and political geography, planning, and land management, urban and rural systems, new technologies and geoinformation, environment and sustainability, geographical education, transport communications & networking.

<http://www.ntua.gr/MIRC/EUROGEO/index.html>

'Mediterranean Region: Development Prospects and Challenges' , a joint session of the European Academy (Academia Europaea) – Social Sciences Committee - and IGU MRP (International Geographical Union, Mediterranean Renaissance Program). Session organizer and chair: Maria Paradiso (Italy).

Speakers were:

Maria Paradiso (University of Sannio, Italy), Maghrebine and Egyptian geoeconomic evolutions: prospects and challenges in an integrated Mediterranean perspective.

Anastasia Stratigea, A., Maria Giaoutzi and Anastasia Biska (National Technical University of Athens, Greece), Prospects of Renewable Energy Production in the Mediterranean Region.

Oren Yiftachel, (Ben Gurion University, Israel) 'Gray Spacing' –the Arab-Jewish Metropolis

Philippe Vidal, (University of Havre, France), Beyond teleworking, ICTS as a maturation process of the periurban dwelling : the French case

MRP has been invited to take care of a special issue on Mediterranean in the EUROGEO Journal.

2. Joint conference IGU Commission Geography of Global Information Society, Heritage, Planning and eParticipation . session The Role of Information Technologies and Mediterranean Democratic Movements'

The Conference, entitled 'Heritage, Planning and eParticipation: The Evolving Forms of Information Society, with a special focus on ICT and democracy, Athens, July 3-6, 2011 was co-organized by Mark Wilson, Maria Giaoutsi (principal local organizer, Greece), Maria Paradiso . It successfully took place in Athens, July 3-6, 2011 in the NTUA- National Technical Polytechnic co-sponsored by various institutions firstly Michigan State University and NTUA. In the specific session "The Role of Information Technologies and Mediterranean Democratic Movements' (Organizers: Maria Paradiso and Barney Warf), papers were presented by: Barney Warf, Maria Paradiso, Olivier Lefebvre, and Mark Wilson.

3. Field work and report on visit to Lampedusa, 15 - 19 March 2011, for a study entitled: 'Mobility following Mediterranean democratic movements: The role of ICTs. IGU MRP (Mediterranean Renaissance Program), Academia Europaea Social Sciences Section Initiative on Mobility and Integration. FROM: Maria Paradiso, MRP Coordinator; Member, AE Social Sciences Section. Report has been published on IGU website and a paper, submitted to an international journal, is under reviewing process.

4. MRP book project

MRP book with Springer on 'Contemporary Mediterranean Geography': The book is co-edited by Theano S. Terkenli (Greece) and Louis Cassar (Malta). The book is progressing, all revision were due for October 7th 2011 to editors, the book is still in the making.

5. MRP preparations for Santiago and Cologne

The Santiago meeting was not a major focus for MRP even if MRP hardly tried to have a presence there. Annick Douguédroit explored possibilities of inviting a local Chair together with the Commission on Climatology in order to have an MRP session on 'Mediterranean Climate' taking into consideration that Chile has Mediterranean climatic zones. It has not been possible, MRP is grateful to Annick Douguédroit for her strenuous work on the issue.

2010

On November 2009 Maria Paradiso became MRP President/Coordinator and Ali Toumi Executive Secretary.

1. MRP and IGU Tel Aviv 2010:

MRP developed further ties and cooperation with Commissions through by 8 joint sessions with several commissions (Political Geography, Gender, Tourism, Cultural Geography, Local development, climate change). The list of MRP corresponding members is increasing.

2. Joint conference with Tunis-CERES (Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche Sociale)-MERC (Middle East Competition a program by Ford Foundation) Tunis, March 2010

The Conference, entitled 'Mediterranean Tourism and Global crisis', was co-organized by Maria Paradiso and Ali Toumi (principal local organizer). It successfully took place in Tunis, 9-11 March 2010, in the CERES venue in Tunis, co-sponsored also by CERES and MERC. There were 15 speakers from Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Spain UK, and US. MRP officers who participated in the event and presented papers were: Annick Douguédroit, Maria Paradiso, Theano S. Terkenli and Ali Toumi. The meeting was followed a field trip leading from Cap Bon to Sahel focusing on Tunisian spatial development for tourism and economic activity at large.

The two keynote speakers were Professor L. Michalak (Berkely University, anthropologist) and Mr. A. Smaoui, former Tunisian Minister of Tourism. One technical paper was presented by M. T. Baya Director of Tunisian Spatial Planning.

CERES expressed interest in further collaboration with MRP in publishing the conference proceedings. MERC also expressed willingness to continue to cooperate with MRP for seminars within a frame of multidisciplinary cooperation, though more thought is needed in order to safeguard the role of geography within a multi-disciplinary arena.

Proceedings are in progress and will be published in collaboration with CERES.

3. MRP book project

MRP book with Springer on 'Contemporary Mediterranean Geography': The book is co-edited by Theano Terkenli (Greece) and Louis Cassar (Malta). The book is progressing and some authors received revisions.

4 . MRP preparations for Santiago and Cologne

The Santiago meeting will not be a major focus for MRP but still MRP will try to have a presence there. Annick Douguédroit will explore possibilities of inviting a local Chair together with the Commission on Climatology in order to have an MRP session on 'Mediterranean Climate' taking into consideration that Chile has Mediterranean climatic zones.

MRP decided to devote more emphasis and efforts to the 2012 IGU Conference in Cologne issuing a call for session(s) and papers on the topic 'German ties with the Mediterranean'. Maria Paradiso has already shared this planned activity with the two Co-Chairs of IGU Cologne who'll support and proposed in principle a session on Renewable Energy from Mediterranean. The Cologne LOC promised to answer after internal meetings.

5. Union for the Mediterranean

Contacts with Italian Foreign Affairs.

Before the nominations at the UofM Maria Paradiso got in touch with the Italian Head of diplomacy for the UofM in order to inform on MRP and have possible support in terms of networking (UofM, Alliance of Civilisations) and information on UofM. He was ready to support the presentation of MRP to the Ministers of Higher Education and Research who are supposed to meet in Slovenia to present MRP as a research network complementary to existing educational bodies. The meeting was postponed but luckily the nominations for UofM deputy-secretaries went ahead.

Meeting with Professor Ilan Chet, Deputy Secretary for Research

After initial consultation by Maria Paradiso with the Italian Diplomat in charge of the Union of the Mediterranean she got in touch with the Deputy-Secretary of Research, a leading scientist from Israel, Prof. Ilan Chet, thanks to links provided by Aharon Kellerman. Maria Paradiso prepared and sent presentation materials on MRP and asked for a meeting in Israel proposing four main goals. The meeting took place on July 13 at Dan Panorama Hotel with Professor Chet, Maria Paradiso and Aharon Kellerman.

Professor Chet showed real interest and readiness to help on the basis of an MRP written document to be prepared.

6. MRP Annual Conference 2011 Or 2012. Sponsorship proposal submitted to UN Alliance of Civilisations – Mediterranean Alliance.

A proposal for sponsoring a Conference entitled: 'Migration as mobilities, geographical perspectives from the Mediterranean' has been submitted to the Malta meeting of Foreign Ministers, UN Alliance of Civilisations, Mediterranean focus via the Italian Foreign Office.

2009

2009 has been a year of intense preparations for the following initiatives which were decided on the basis of Rome 2009 business meeting agenda discussion; the Executive Secretary Maria Paradiso for MRP has arranged in February a scientific meeting plus the business meeting hosted at the Italian Geographical Society in Rome.

In 2009-10 MRP became a co-founder of EMUNI (Euro-Mediterranean University) per Maria Paradiso's initiative ; and initiated contacts for future activities (IGU Tel Aviv, CERES Tunis, MRP Book).

The Rome 2009 workshop Contemporary Challenges for the Mediterranean Basin", and business meeting have been organised by Maria Paradiso.

24 February 2009 MRP workshop included 11 papers by Douguédroit, Sala, Toumi, Montanari, Bellezza, Kellerman, Eveno, Paradiso, Gosar, Terkenli, Jelen, grouped into four sessions: Environmental impacts of climatic changes (Chair and organiser: Annick Douguédroit, France); Migration in the Mediterranean Region: between human development and security (Chair and organiser: Ali Toumi, Tunisia), Information Society (Chair and organiser: Maria Paradiso, Italy) Tourism and sustainability (Chair and organiser: Giuliano Bellezza, Italy). The workshop was marked by thorough discussions following each presentation, and these discussions have been able to illuminate new perspectives which will be developed into structured sessions for the IGU Tel Aviv 2010 Regional Conference (e.g. borders and illegal border crossing). The workshop attracted several young Italian Ph.D. students on Mediterranean studies.

The business meeting has been led by the Executive Secretary Maria Paradiso and it was attended by the following members of the steering committee present: Annick Douguédroit, Anton Gosar, Giuliano Bellezza, Aharon Kellerman, Maria Sala, Theano Terkenli, and Ali Toumi.

The committee expressed warm thanks to the Home of Geography and to the Chair of the Italian Geographical Society, Professor Franco Salvatori, for hosting the event. It further thanked the IGU for its financial support and Maria Paradiso for the organization of the workshop.

The following initiatives were decided on:

IGU Tel Aviv 2010: Sessions in collaboration with Commissions will be prepared, and one thematic MRP session will be possibly entitled 'Mediterranean borders'. The topic of 'cruisers' and immigration were found of special relevance for the 'borders session'. The organizer for this session will Giuliano Bellezza and/or Anton Gosar

MRP book proposal with Springer on 'Contemporary Mediterranean Geography': This proposal will aim at the publication of chapters based on the workshop presentations, as well as additional ones, solicited by the co-editors. Theano Terkenli expressed her readiness to serve as co-editor for the proposed volume and will look for the second co-editor. MRP decided that both co-editors have to be geographers and come from Mediterranean countries. The co-editors will send back to MRP steering the book proposal for comments and approval before sending to the publisher.

EMUNI: MRP decided to submit to EMUNI a proposal for a summer doctoral research seminar prepared by Aharon Kellerman and Maria Paradiso on Mediterranean information societies, with up to four Professors, assuming that EMUNI will accept new proposals.

Collaboration with Tunis-CERES (Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche Sociale): Ali Toumi reported that CERES is interested in principle to co-sponsor with MRP a three-day workshop (including a one-day field trip) focused on tourism, scheduled for the second week in March 2010. CERES will cover accommodations and meals for speakers. The committee asked Ali to arrange for a formal invitation, which will be followed by negotiations with CERES performed by a sub-committee consisting of: Ali Toumi, Maria Paradiso (coordinator), Anton Gosar, and Giuliano Bellezza. If CERES will require, an agreement will be drafted and signed.

MRP and IGU Tel Aviv 2010: Sessions in collaboration with Commissions were prepared. The Executive Secretary Maria Paradiso issued a general call on behalf of MRP that has been circulated via the IGU lists.

Preliminary ideas for sessions were as follows:

Commission of Political Geography, one possible session entitled 'Mediterranean borders.' The co-organizers for this session will be Anton Gosar, Andy Newman, and Giuliano Bellezza.

Contacts have been taken by Theano Terkenli and Maria Paradiso with the Commission on Tourism and Cultural Geography.

Commission on Climate Change. Annick Douguédroit is taking care of contacts.

Maria Paradiso and Barney Warf (Kansas University, US) co-organize a session entitled 'Mediterranean information societies: Between traditional cultures and contemporary global communications' for the Commission of the Global Information Society and issued a call for papers within the Commission (see Appendix 1).

MRP book proposal with Springer on 'Contemporary Mediterranean Geography': This proposal will aim at the publication of chapters based on presentations at MRP Rome workshop February 2009, as well as additional ones. The two co-editors are Theano S. Terkenli and Lou Cassar (University of Malta). They initiated negotiations with Springer and prepared a preliminary book form and call for chapters, with some consulting with Maria Paradiso. Hopefully it will be circulated in September.

Joint conference with Tunis-CERES (Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche Sociale): On behalf of MRP, Ali Toumi and Maria Paradiso arranged with CERES and MERC (Middle East Research Program Competition) the organization plan and call for papers for an international conference which will take place in Tunis 9-11 March 2010, entitled 'Mediterranean Tourism and Global crisis' (for the call for papers and further details see Appendix 3).

2008

At its business meeting at the Home of Geography, Rome, May 2008, lead by Mahmoud Ashour and Maria Paradiso MRP was declared to be at a turning point looking for a sound vision for its role and consequent future actions within the broader IGU strategic goals, hoping to strengthen geography in its networking and external involvements. MRP arranged several sessions for IGU Tunis.

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