

# THE MEDITERRANEAN AND US, TODAY

Our little stretch of water has become a central artery of global affairs. Today we find it in turmoil. Demands for democracy and greater equality are spreading from the Balkan states to the southern shores. Old authoritarian regimes are falling. Turkey with its democratic government is growing at the same pace as China. The whole of the Middle East, with its instability and religious fervour is breathing a new energy into Asia and Europe.

A font of enormous capital, the area is looking for optimum returns. The countries of the wider Mediterranean basin represent the main junction of intercontinental migratory movement. They have registered high growth rates and are gradually opening up on the international front.

The European Union is a shy bystander of many of the changes underway, and has been hesitant about the opportunities offered. Every year thousands of new immigrants from the south arrive here, but the path to integration is fraught with difficulties. In a similar vein instances of intolerance are multiplying.

Institutes to foster partnerships such as the Unione per il Mediterraneo of 2008 have shown themselves to be hollow shells. Even its central economic role for Mediterranean countries is losing ground to new actors.

Italy is fuelling this trend. Although its geographic position should favour it as a force driving Europe towards the Mediterranean, the country has responded in only a sporadic way and has failed to generate a systematic approach in this direction. Paralleli wants to make its contribution by taking up the challenges and exploiting the opportunities.

*Giancarlo Chevallard*





# PARALLELI

# TO

**SHARE** in a process of democratic growth.

**BUILD TOGETHER** a Euro-Mediterranean area of freedom and development.

**LIBERATE** the potential of civil societies in Mediterranean countries.

**SEIZE** the opportunities for economic and social cooperation.

**CREATE** common projects.





# PARALLELI

# BECAUSE

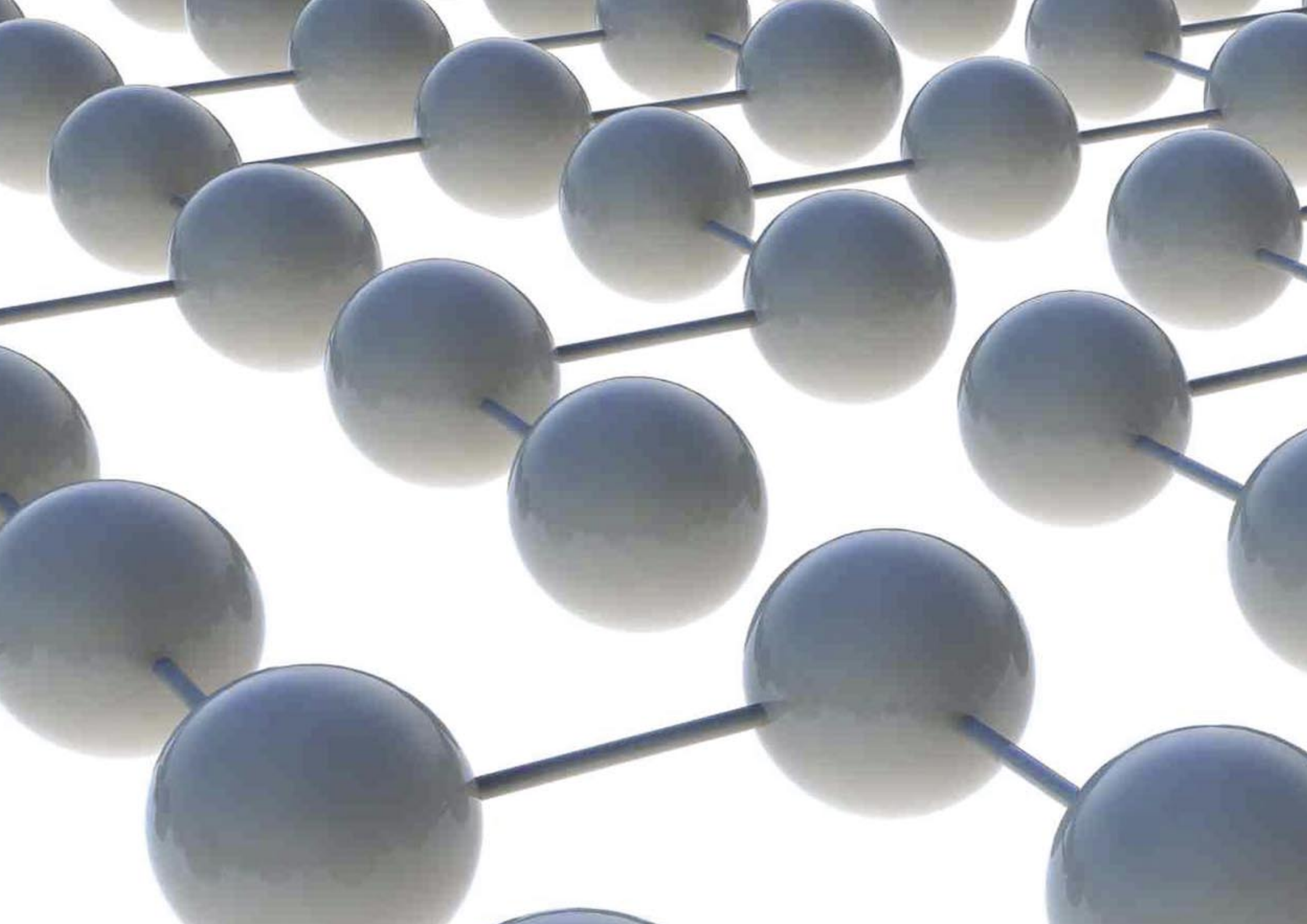
PARALLELI IS THE ONLY STRUCTURE IN NORTH WEST ITALY WITH A 360° VISION OVER THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA.

PARALLELI OPERATES WITH TOTAL AUTONOMY by interpreting common values and interests with local stakeholders.

PARALLELI CAN ALLOW THE MACRO REGION OF NORTH WEST ITALY TO TAKE ON A LEADERSHIP ROLE in the process of Euro-Mediterranean co-development.

PARALLELI IS NETWORKING with its well-established local roots it creates and facilitates the growth of networks at local, national and international level.





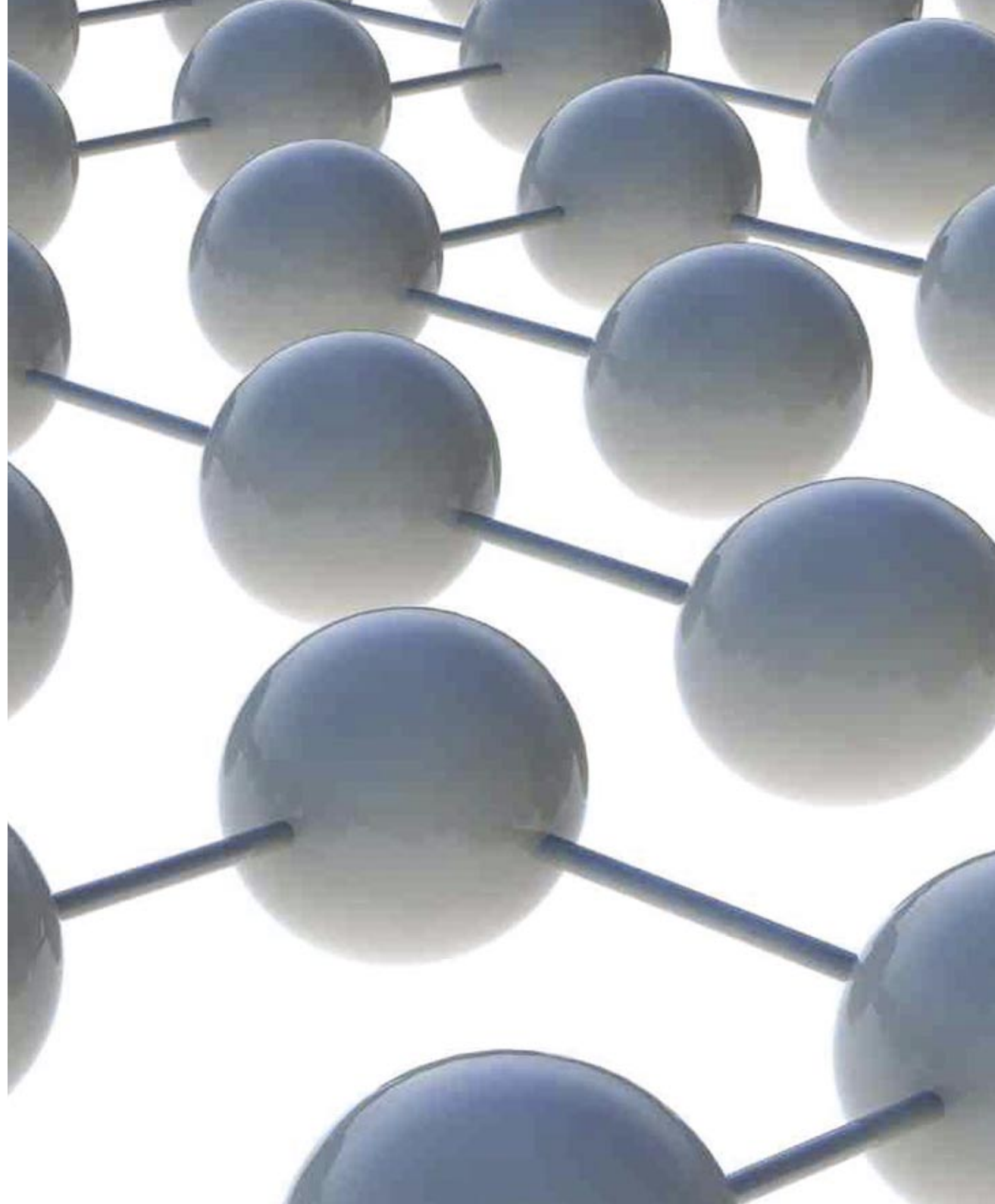
# PARALLELI

## THE INSTITUTE

A main player in Mediterranean networking, it encourages dialogue and promotes the development process between Europe and the Mediterranean shores.

Istituto Paralleli is a non-profit association. It develops Euro-Mediterranean partnerships and contributes to strengthening political relations, economic cooperation, cultural exchanges and the flow of people between Europe and countries on the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean. Paralleli was founded in 2005 by seven associations inspired by their shared values. Based in Turin, it has ties throughout northwest Italy, a strategic area for cooperation between the European Union and the Mediterranean Sea basin. The north west of Italy is a highly developed region (17 million inhabitants) and acts as a pivot between the Greater European Continent (500 million inhabitants) and the Mediterranean basin with its potential of 400 million citizens.

Paralleli focuses its attention on all Mediterranean countries including Turkey and the Balkan states as well as those countries bordering the Arabian Peninsula.



A word cloud featuring various terms in different colors and orientations. The most prominent word is 'networking' in large orange letters. Other significant words include 'stakeholders' in dark red, 'Italy' in blue, 'economy' in blue, 'north west' in blue, 'mission' in blue, 'autonomy' in yellow, 'cooperation' in green, 'international' in blue, 'Mediterranean' in green, 'local networks' in yellow, 'growth' in green, 'leadership' in dark red, 'process' in dark red, 'online' in grey, 'north west' in grey, 'macro region' in dark red, 'Italy' in orange, and 'networking' in dark red. The words are scattered across the image, with some overlapping.

networking  
stakeholders  
Italy  
economy  
north west  
mission  
autonomy  
cooperation  
international  
Mediterranean  
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growth  
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online  
north west  
macro region  
Italy  
networking

# NETWORKING

Paralleli works with partners renowned for their excellence and is a member of the most important international networks for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

## ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION

The Anna Lindh Foundation for dialogue between Euro-Mediterranean cultures is the first institute to be founded and funded by all 35 Euro-Mediterranean partners - 25 European Union and 10 other Mediterranean countries. The mandate of the foundation is to bring people and organisations from the two sides of the Mediterranean together and to launch a partnership between the EU and Mediterranean countries in social, cultural and human fields. More specifically, to develop human resources, promote mutual understanding and foster exchanges among those working in civil society.

[www.euromedalex.org](http://www.euromedalex.org)

## RIM NETWORK

A network of Mediterranean research institutes (Las Tres Culturas, Seville; IEMED, Barcelona; Institut de la Méditerranée, Marseille; Istituto Paralleli, Turin; Istituto Universitario Europeo, Florence; CESPI, Rome) created as part of the PARM project (Plan d'Action des Régions Méditerranéennes/Réseau d'Instituts Méditerranéens). Its objective is to propose projects and political policies. As well as being the headquarters for common projects for Mediterranean cooperation policies, the goal is working jointly to identify a mid-long term vision and the role of our area.

## EARTH

Earth – the new European Alliance for Responsible Tourism - was officially constituted on 16th October 2008 in Brussels. Founded by 20 organisations committed to sustainable and responsible tourism in six European countries (Italy, France, Germany, Spain, UK, Belgium). Earth offers one European wide voice to organisations involved in responsible tourism. In addition, it promotes networking among operators in the sector and works to sensitize public opinion thanks to promotional campaigns about alternative tourism while safeguarding the nature and culture of the destinations visited.

[www.earth-net.eu](http://www.earth-net.eu)

## FEMI

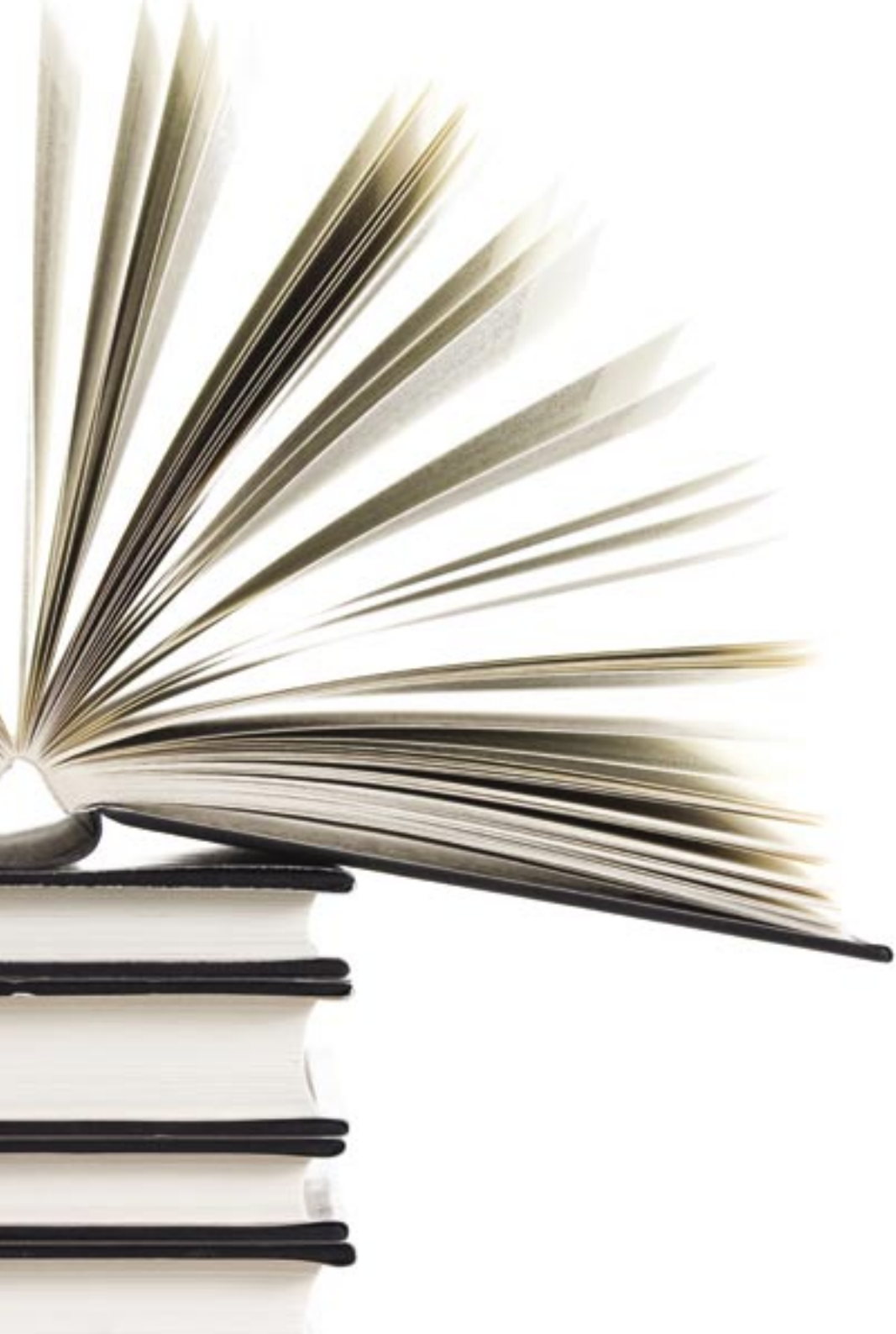
FeMi – the Italian Federation of micro web TVs - involves all the micro web TVs which participate in the creation of a bottom-up digital communication process, using diverse communication tools. It was created because of a need to unite the different forces and spirits in a still fragmented phenomenon, to promote the activity of video-citizen-journalism still little known by professionals and little promoted by public opinion. A further aim is to stimulate the creation of micro web TVs.

[www.femityv.tv](http://www.femityv.tv)

## COPEAM

Copeam - Permanent Conference on Audiovisuals in the Mediterranean - is a network of networks which was formally founded in Cairo in 1996. As a permanent forum for dialogue and cooperation among Mediterranean countries it is able, with the spirit of "sharing know-how", to bring together the different actors in cultural and audiovisual sectors: radio and TV producers, independent producers, professional associations, inter-government institutes, non governmental international agencies, think tanks, universities, local institutes.

[www.copeam.org](http://www.copeam.org)



# AREAS OF ACTION

Between 2005 and 2010: 10 European projects, 20 national and local projects, more than 100 public initiatives.

## CULTURE

**Lives re-veiled: an enquiry about the veil across the Mediterranean** (2011)

The project, funded by the Anna Lindh Foundation, consists of the making of four documentary films in Italy, Morocco, Egypt and Lebanon

**Eufemia** (2010)

Eufemia from the "invisible city" of Italo Calvino where "memories are exchanged" is a virtual platform to collect stories, possessions and testimony linked to the new citizens living in Piedmont. Project in partnership with the Fitzcarraldo Foundation and with support, in the initial phase, from the local Region.

**Italy-Turkey, two peninsulas one sea** (2007)

In collaboration with the Piedmont headquarters of the Conservatoire des Cuisines Méditerranéennes, Paralleli worked on drafting a yearlong course to develop closer ties with the culture, history and politics of Turkey.

**Karawan. The Civil Caravan from Morocco to Italy** (2006-2007).

Istituto Paralleli, the Alma Terra Association and the Intercultural Centre of the city of Turin organised the Italian stage of the Civic Caravan of Morocco in 2006. The work continued in 2007 with the project "Diritti in movimento" "Rights on the move", an informative initiative on Maudawana, the new family structure in Morocco.

## ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

With the support of the Turin Chamber of Commerce, Paralleli promotes an annual series of in-depth meetings to examine issues in the Mediterranean area closely linked to the economic world. **Mediterraneo in movimento** (2011) **Nodi Mediterranei** (2010) **Mercato Mediterraneo** (2009) **The Mediterranean on the move** (2011) **Mediterranean Junctions** (2010) **The Mediterranean Market** (2009) .

### **The agri-food crisis in the Mediterranean. The Egyptian situation** (2009)

Workshop for in-depth examination organised in cooperation with the Turin Chamber of Commerce and with the participation of the Conservatoria delle Cucine del Mediterraneo.

### **Morocco/Italy: towards a new economic partnership** (2009)

A day of meetings organised in cooperation with the Turin Chamber of Commerce and the Intesa San Paolo Group, within the framework of Anno Economico del Marocco in Italia. (Economic year of Morocco in Italy)

### **Promotion of new enterprises by Moroccan migrants in the province of Kouribga, Morocco** (2007)

A project created in partnership with the CNA (Confederazione Nazionale dell'Artigianato e della Piccola e Media Impresa) (National Federation of Artisans and small and middle-sized enterprises) the objectives of which include local development in the region of Chaouia Ouardigha and in the Province of Kouribga, thanks to the mobilisation of resources from Moroccan immigrants currently living in Piedmont who wish to promote enterprises in their native country.

## YOUNG PEOPLE AND INTERCULTURE

### **PYOU Project** (2010)

This project was funded by the Piedmont Region as part of the programme in the framework "PYOU – passione da vendere" "passion for sale" endorsed by the Piedmont Region and the Ministry for Young People.

### **Youth, citizenship and work. An intercultural comparison** (2009)

Project supported by the Agenzia Nazionale, presented in the framework of the community Programme for informal Education and international youth mobility "Gioventù in azione" "Youth in action". The project promoted meetings between young Italian and foreign workers in the Turin area. A report was produced at the end of the sessions which collates key points and requests directed to those responsible for policies regarding youth and employment as well as to trade union representatives.

### **Water&Cultures in Dialogue – Forum dei giovani sull'acqua** (2008)

This project was promoted by Istituto Paralleli and the Anna Lindh Foundation in Alexandria Egypt, with the patronage and contribution from the Piedmont region, the City and Provincial authorities of Turin. From 20 to 25 May 2008 Turin played host to 69 young people from more than 30 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and selected after a public competition. They then participated in workshops and meetings guided by international experts and local facilitators. .

## MEDIA

### **Jeunes reporters et migrants (2010)**

The European Commission has approved the project "Jeunes reporters et migrants" as part of "Gioventù in azione" (Youth in action). Istituto Paralleli was one of the partners of the Citizen Journalism project held in Italy, France, Burkino Faso and Senegal.

### **Babelmed (2008)**

Online magazine concerning Mediterranean cultures published in four languages: French, English, Arabic and since 2008 also in Italian, managed and supported by Paralleli. Babelmed is first of all a network of correspondents from the south Mediterranean chosen for their independence and deep knowledge of the societies where they live. Thanks to these qualities the site produces valuable and original information. It publishes articles, surveys, portraits, interviews, reviews and appointments. In 2010 and 2011 it published 6 investigative articles in just as many Mediterranean cities, managed by Paralleli in the framework of a project supported by the network "Arco Latino".

### **Antenna project. Intercultural information in Piedmont (2008)**

The project, in cooperation with the l'Università di Torino, l'Ordine dei Giornalisti del Piemonte, and l'Associazione Stampa Subalpina, (University of Turin, the Association of Journalists of Piedmont and the Sub-alpine Press Association) and with the support of the Piedmont Region, undertook a research study to monitor the level of development and awareness of "intercultural culture" among information professionals in Piedmont.

### **News without a permit. Foreign press agencies in Piedmont (2008)**

Paralleli served as an incubator for the birth of a multicultural press agency deeply rooted in Piedmont, consisting of foreign and local journalists to promote positive news about immigration and to present the profound changes affecting the region.

### **European year of intercultural dialogue (2008)**

Paralleli was a partner of the European project "Incontrare l'altro: frontiere, identità e culture del Mediterraneo" "Encountering others: borders, identity and culture in the Mediterranean" coordinated by Babelmed and with nine European partners. In addition, it was the partner of "Dar-Med: Dialogo contro la radicalizzazione violenta", "Dar-Med: dialogue against violent radicalisation" run by the NGO Cospe.

## EURO-MEDITERRANEAN POLICIES

### **Med Governance Project (2011)**

Long-term project presented in the framework of the MED programme and developed with the RIM network - Réseau d'Instituts Méditerranéens - focusing on the regional policies in governance of the Mediterranean area. Headed by the Region of Tuscany with the partnership of the RIM network (Tuscany, Lazio, Piedmont, PACA, Catalonia, Andalusia).

### **Mapping Euro-Mediterranean relations in Piedmont (2008)**

Based on the example of the research promoted and carried out in Liguria by the Centro in Europa of Genoa and in parallel with the work of Globus and Locus for Lombardy, the research study "Piemonte area del Mediterraneo. Una relazione in crescita" "Piedmont area of the Mediterranean. A relationship in growth" photographed various aspects of Piedmont interaction with the south basin of the Mediterranean.

## TOURISM AND SUSTAINABILITY

### **Mare nostrum** (2011)

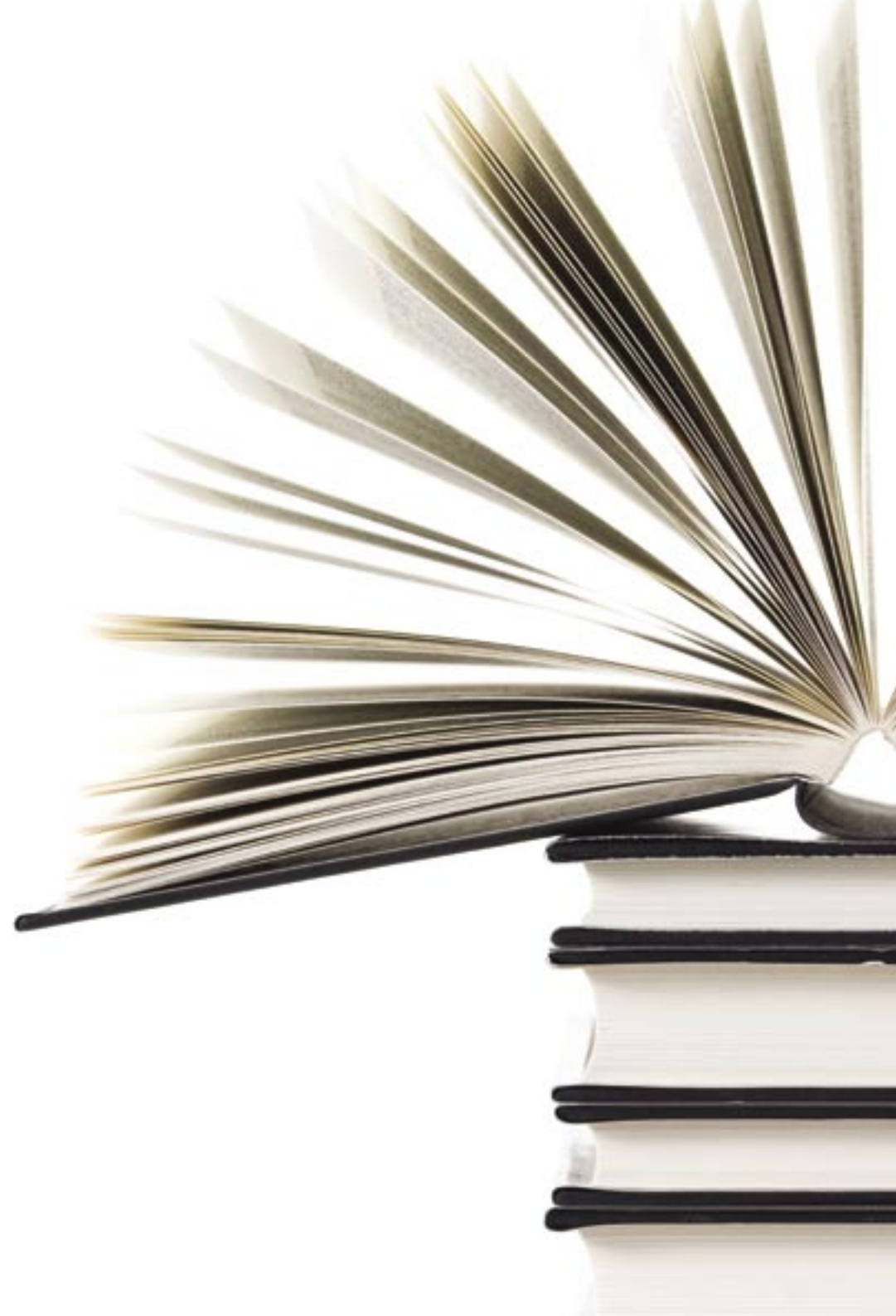
Long-term project funded by the EU under the umbrella programme Euromed Heritage, with the objective of creating cultural tourist trails using a participatory approach. The project is coordinated by the University of Florence and involves the port-cities of Rhodes, Tyre, Carthage, Malta, Tartous (Syria) and Syracuse.

### **Heritage Trail in Piemonte** (2010)

A Paralleli Project with contribution from the Piedmont Region, to promote the development of sustainable tourism in Piedmont.

### **Mediterranean in Piedmont, an intercultural tour guide** (2010)

A project with contribution from the Piedmont Region to create a guide dedicated to the opportunities for sustainable tourism in Piedmont, presenting “Mediterranean” trails to strengthen the links between the region and the area of the Mediterranean.





# PARALLELI

# ONLINE

## [www.paralleli.org](http://www.paralleli.org)

A news title since 2011. In addition to serving as an external communication tool for the association, this multimedia portal of Istituto Paralleli is a source of information and in-depth analysis on Euro-Mediterranean relations with news, videos, articles, analysis and opinions on the themes which impact on the different shores of the Med. [www.paralleli.org](http://www.paralleli.org) is also on Facebook and Youtube.

### **Develop.med**

An online newsletter for in-depth information addressed to people involved in economic, cooperation, and information dissemination working in the Euro-Mediterranean area. Founded in 2009, Develop.med is linked to [www.paralleli.org](http://www.paralleli.org). Its goal is to contribute to the development underway in Euro-Mediterranean relations and to communicate in-depth information relevant for establishing exchanges and cooperation in diverse important sectors for economic integration between Italy, Europe and the southern Mediterranean. News, policy briefings, opinions, “postcards” from all over the world and informative spaces dedicated to Euro-Mediterranean networks.

The section “Dossier of the month” containing analysis and in-depth information has been drafted and publicised in English by the German Marshall Fund since 2010.

## [www.vocidieufemia.it](http://www.vocidieufemia.it)

2.0 web platform linked to new citizens, at the service of the intercultural reality in Turin, Eufemia is a virtual city in which old and new citizens can meet to talk of the present and future of Piedmont, creating a multi-voiced dialogue which debates the dynamics and transformations taking place throughout Piedmont.

## [www.jeunesrm.org](http://www.jeunesrm.org)

2.0 web platform created for young citizen journalists working with Paralleli, thanks to Euro projects, on themes concerned with participative journalism. Video, audio, texts and photos can all be independently uploaded by the young journalists.

**In addition, Paralleli is also present in those portals which are most committed to creating partnership networks:**

YouthNetWorks: [www.youthnetworks.eu/EuroMedYouth](http://www.youthnetworks.eu/EuroMedYouth)

Platform: [www.euromedp.org](http://www.euromedp.org)

Youth for Europe: [www.youthforeurope.eu](http://www.youthforeurope.eu)



# CONNECTING THE MEDITERRANEAN to promote cooperation and development

President:

**Giancarlo Chevallard**

Ambassador, Former EU Commissioner, Member of many national and European think tanks

Vice President:

**Antonio Ferigo**

Trade Union Leader, expert in Euro-Mediterranean relations

Director:

**Eliana Cerrato**

Paralleli is supported by



Paralleli is the partner of:

