

Séminaire annuel OHM Littoral méditerranéen  
Marseille, Station marine d'Endoume, 24 mars 2025



## MaritiMedSeaties

*Maritimité et habitabilité des grandes villes littorales méditerranéennes*

*Maritimity and habitability of large Mediterranean coastal cities*



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II



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# An International Research Network supported by CNRS – SHS for 5 years (2025-2029)

Funds dedicated to **academic mobility** and **gathering**

## Partners in France, Italy, Spain and Tunisia

- *Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya*
- *Università degli Studi di Genova*
- *Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II*
- *Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche*
- *Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain*
- **CNRS**



# A project to study the relationships between large coastal cities (and their inhabitants) with the sea

Cities > 500 000 inhab.



Old and strong pressure on the coastal environment

Lots of opportunities from the sea

Capacities to study and plan the development of the sea

Many questions related to CC effects on the coast



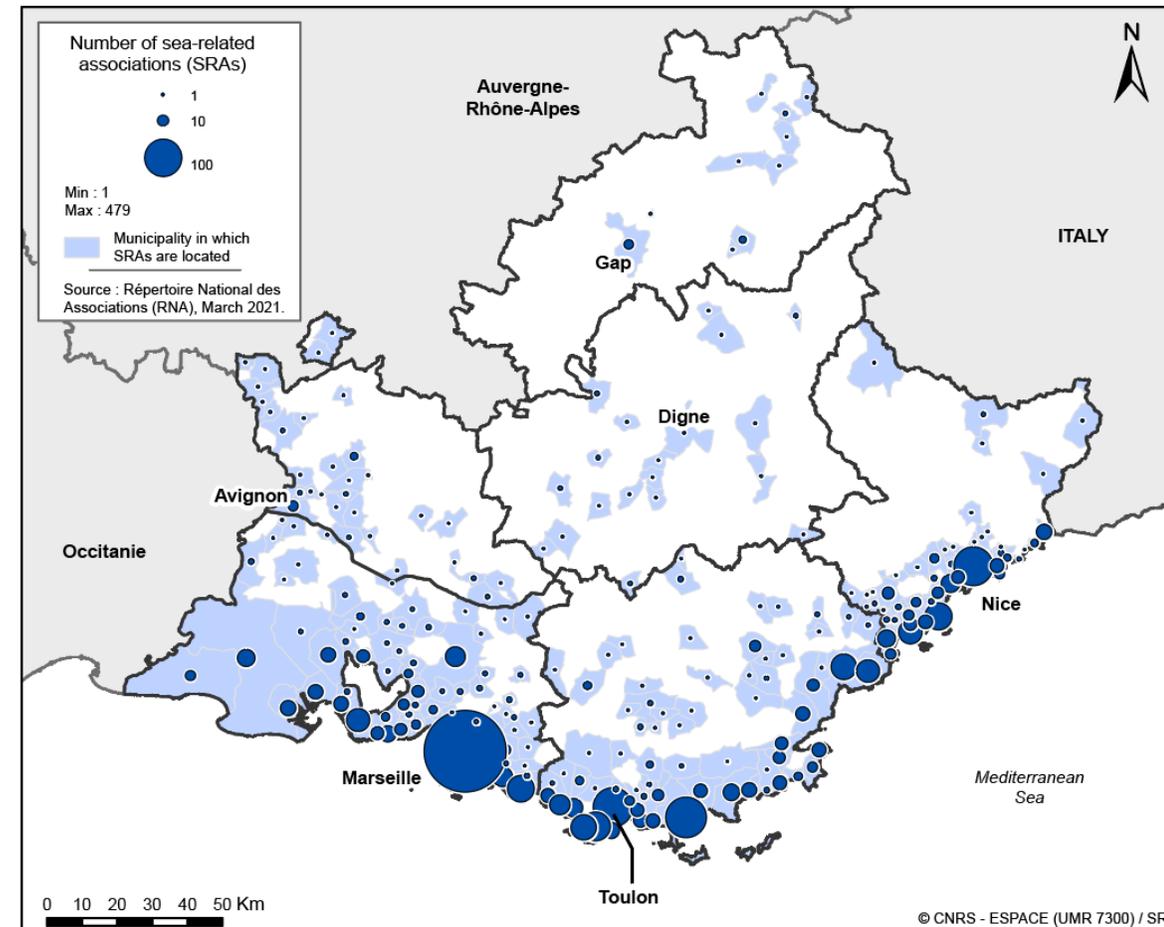
# A project grounded on the concept of « maritimité » / maritimity...

The set of **relationships that bind human societies to the sea, which contribute to the making of specific landscapes, representations and cultures** (Péron and Rieucou 1996).

A cultural geography concept, it was developed by geographers specialising in the coast and the sea, who wanted to design a conceptual tool for describing and analysing **the maritime character of a population**.

By extension, maritimity can be used to **characterise a portion of geographic space**. Precisely because the populations whose maritimity we seek to understand are geographically located, **the concept of maritimity can be applied to the region where they live**.

*Associations (NGO) having a link with the sea in PACA Region*



## ... combined with the concept of liveability / « Habitabilité »

In large coastal cities, **city-sea interactions** are manifold and crucial to habitability.

The sea fascinates and offers **opportunities** to these cities, but it can also be a source of **nuisance, danger and injustice**.

Conversely, cities exert **pressure on the marine environment** and coastal territory, while at the same time developing **public policies** relating to the sea.

The **maritimity of these cities**, i.e. **the way in which the marine participates in urban identity, permeates inhabitants' lifestyles, structures the economy, space and settlement**, induces opportunities but also constraints for **the future**.

In the Mediterranean, some twenty towns with more than 500,000 inhabitants are located by the sea. They provide a relevant framework for such a study, with their **current habitability strongly linked to the sea**.



But what will the future hold?

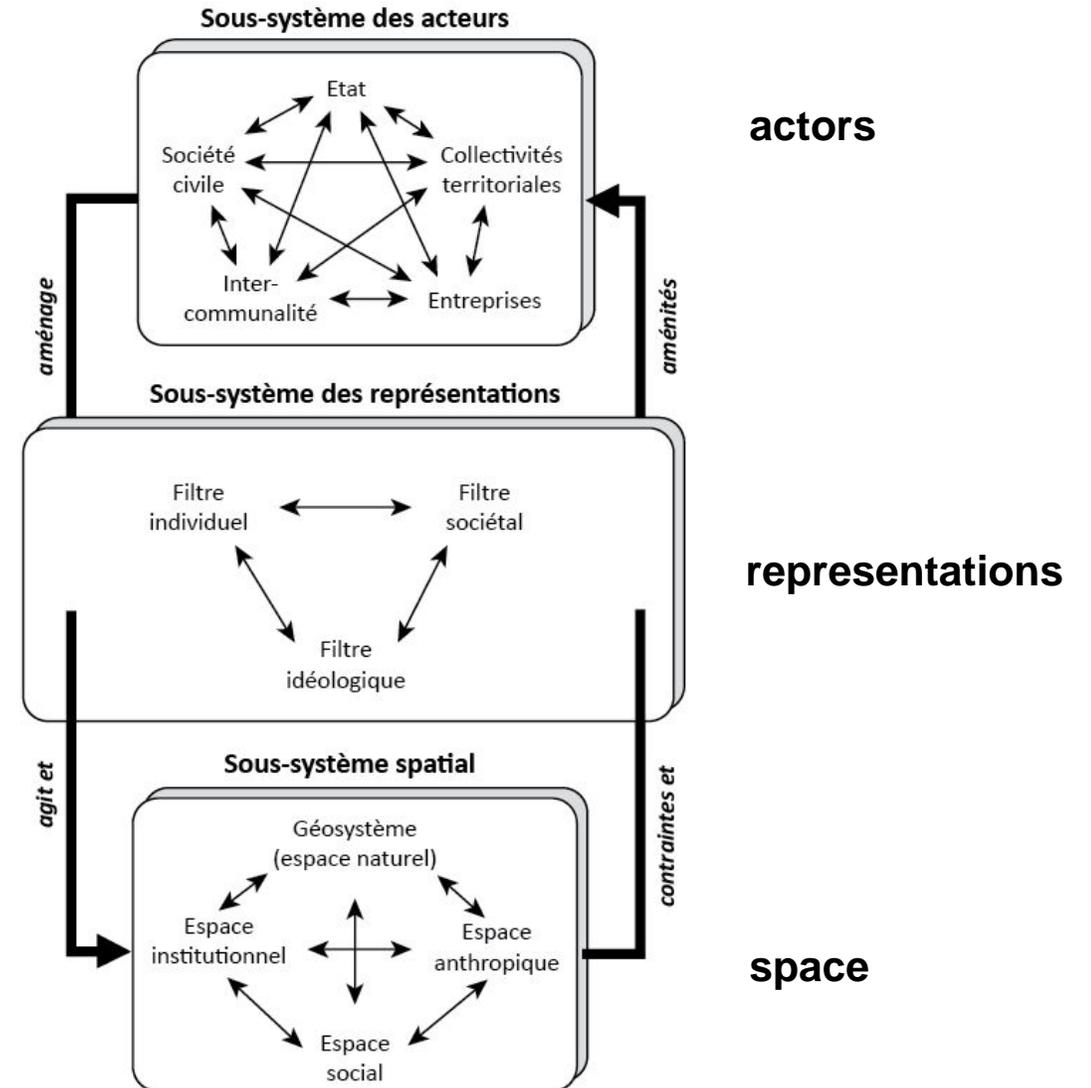
# Conceptual framework: the maritimity of a territory

## Maritimity

Refers to the set of relationships that bind human societies to the sea, which contribute to the making of specific landscapes, representations and cultures (Péron et Rieucou, 1996)

## Territory

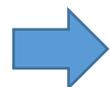
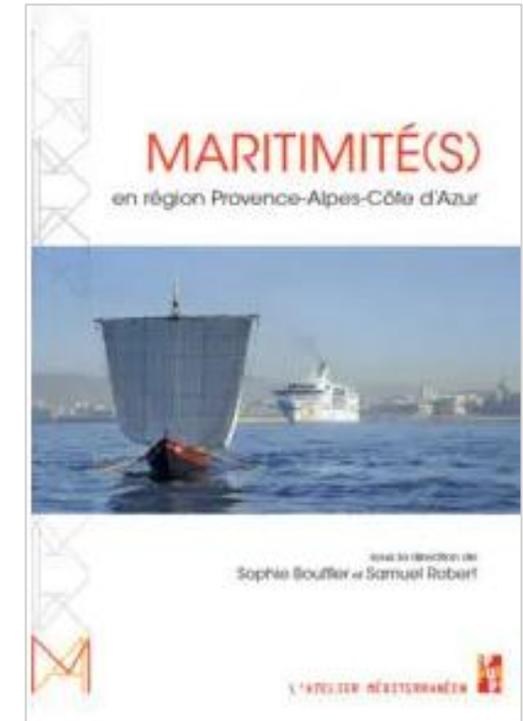
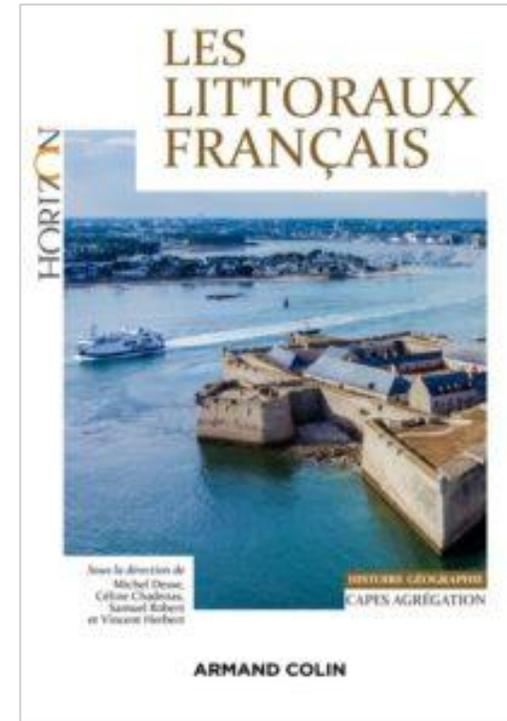
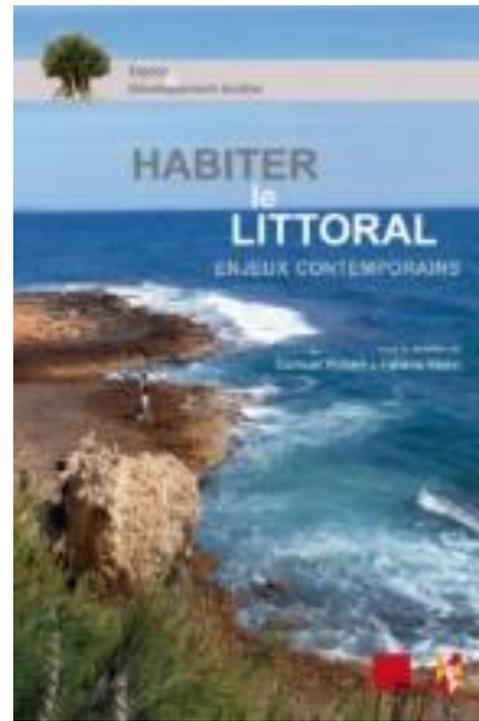
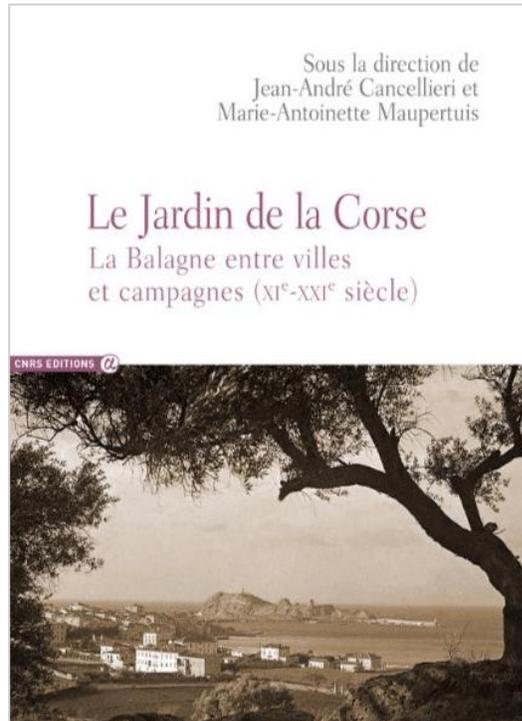
refers to an appropriated and administered portion of land, with geographical, biophysical, legal, social, cultural and symbolic characteristics (Brunet, 1993 ; Le Berre, 1995; Moine, 2006). System of interactions between a human community and its geographical living space.



Adapted from (Moine, 2006)

## A project clearly related to the objectives of OHM Littoral méditerranéen

- **Many studies** related to the social and ecological conditions of the coastal zone liveability since 2012
- One symposium « Habiter le littoral » in 2014
- One symposium on the « maritimity » in PACA region in 2021



**Opportunity to build new projects** and connect to other mediterranean research teams

# Scientific proposal

## 4 research directions

Maritimity,  
adaptation to  
coastal risks  
and habitability



Maritimity,  
port  
development  
and habitability



Maritimity,  
access to the  
sea and  
habitability



Maritimity,  
ecological and  
energy  
transition and  
habitability



# Scientific proposal

## 5 different cities in various geographical context

Barcelona, Marseille, Genoa, Naples, Tunis



Take advantage of this diversity to explore differences and similarities

## Planned activities

**Thematic seminars, joint work, PhD mobility**, the building of a **shared knowledge base**, connexions **with the local stakeholders** in the major cities concerned.

The aim is:

- to create a **community of knowledge** and practice between researchers and local stakeholders ;
- to generate academic knowledge, which will be published in the form of **articles** and a **collective book** at the end of the 5-year project.

# Programme

- 2025**
- May: **MaritiMedSeaties' kick-off meeting, Marseille**
  - October: **Thematic seminar 1, Naples** - Maritimity, port development and habitability

- 2026**
- February: **1st Call for Doctoral Mobility** to be carried out before december 2026 (1 mobility)
  - April: **Thematic seminar 2, Barcelona** - Maritimity, adaptation to coastal risks and habitability
  - November: **call for papers for an international conference on liveable coastal cities** (to be held in october 2027)

- 2027**
- February: **2nd Call for Doctoral Mobility** to be carried out before december 2027 (1 mobility)
  - April: **Thematic seminar 3, Tunis** : Maritimity, ecological and energy transition and habitability
  - October: **International conference, Marseille «liveable coastal cities »**
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- 2028**
- February: **3rd Call for Doctoral Mobility** to be carried out before december 2028 (1 mobility)
  - April: **Thematic seminar 4, Genoa** : Maritimity, access to the sea and habitability

- 2029**
- February: **4th Call for Doctoral Mobility** to be carried out before december 2029 (1 mobility)
  - October: **MaritiMedSeaties' closing seminar, Marseille**

# Administrative information

## *Budget*

- MaritiMedSeaties is funded by CNRS-SHS : 14,000 euros per year
- Each team hosting an event tries to get additional funding
  - For the launching meeting in Marseille, already 3000 euros obtained from ESPACE and ECCOREV

## *Participants*

- The consortium may evolve over the 5-year period: new teams may join the project.

## *Project outputs*

- The objective is to create new academic links and support the building of new projects.
- PhD & Master students mobility
- Collective publication + thematic papers

# Activities within the project

## *Meeting principles and objectives*

### Meeting = 3 days

- One day: workshop
- One day: field trip/visits
- One day: project news, general news regarding the project subject from our cities, news from PhD students
  
- Each meeting has a specific objective, includes working sessions between participants and between participants and partners (workshops). **Discussions and debate should prevail** over academic presentations
  
- Meetings should give the opportunity to promote the **connexion between academics and stakeholders**
  
- PhD students should be given the floor to present their research



# Activities within the project

## *Meeting principles and objectives*

- The 4 research directions must be treated in each city to allow a **comparative approach**, even though each city can be viewed as a place where one topic is more critical.
- Before each thematic seminar, the organising team sends to the other teams instructions to collect information on the theme in their city → getting everyone prepared to the theme, sharing knowledge, comparing situations



## *PhD students mobility*

- 4 calls
- Each team is entitled to host a doctoral student



Possibility to open the call to Master degree students (2<sup>nd</sup> year).



# Kick-off meeting in Marseille

2 days in **May** 2025...

1 day seminar with communications dealing with the **concept of maritimity + the relationship between cities and the sea**, open to other attendants (from OHM-LM, etc.)

1 day workshop internal to MaritiMedSeaties

→ **19 may 2025**

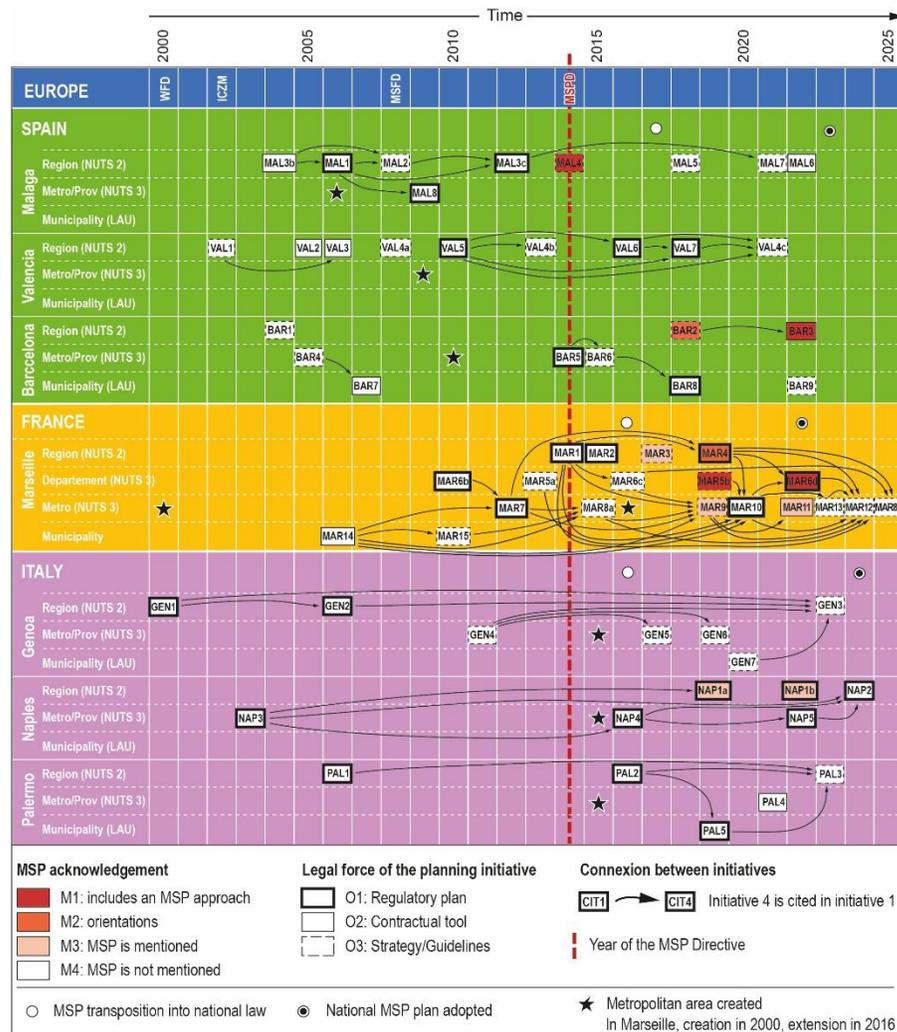
Station marine Endoume



# Activities within the project (proposals)

## Working groups ?

- Timelines to compare cities relationship to the sea ?



OK + one working group on governance issues ?

- A common geographical database ?



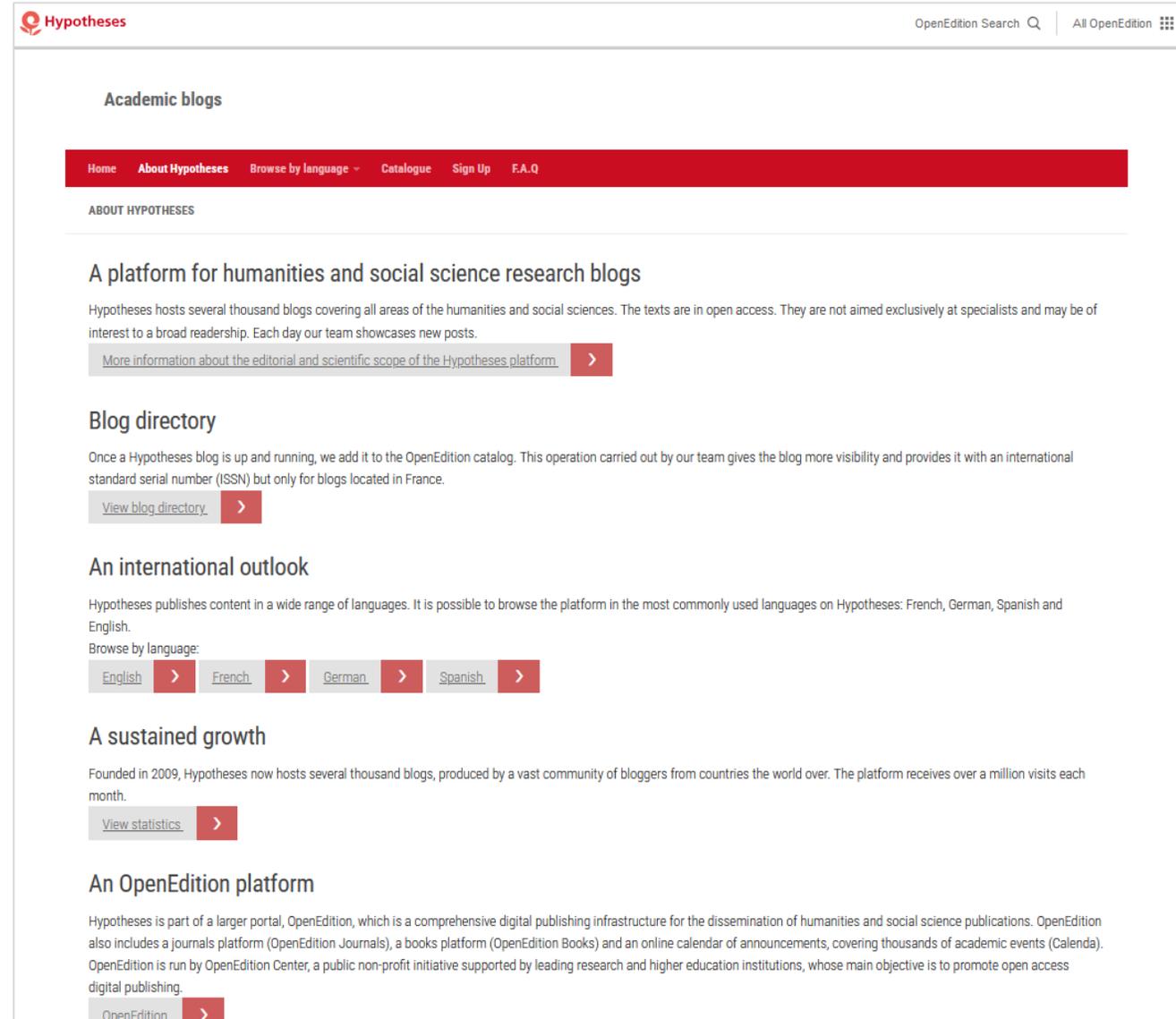
# Common tools to support the project (proposals) and possible outputs

## *Common tools*

- Website on the Hypothese platform
- Share docs in a common repository SDrive
- A Zotero account to share references ?

## *Possible outputs*

- 1 essay on the perspectives of these coastal cities in the future ?
- 1 book (or 1 atlas) gathering contributions and reflexions on the subject ?



The screenshot displays the Hypotheses website interface. At the top, the logo "Hypotheses" is on the left, and "OpenEdition Search" and "All OpenEdition" are on the right. Below the logo, the text "Academic blogs" is centered. A red navigation bar contains links for "Home", "About Hypotheses", "Browse by language", "Catalogue", "Sign Up", and "F.A.Q.". The main content area is titled "ABOUT HYPOTHESES" and features several sections:

- A platform for humanities and social science research blogs**: A paragraph describing the platform's mission, followed by a link "More information about the editorial and scientific scope of the Hypotheses platform" with a red arrow.
- Blog directory**: A paragraph explaining the directory's purpose, followed by a link "View blog directory" with a red arrow.
- An international outlook**: A paragraph about multilingual content, followed by a "Browse by language:" section with buttons for "English", "French", "German", and "Spanish", each with a red arrow.
- A sustained growth**: A paragraph about the platform's history and reach, followed by a link "View statistics" with a red arrow.
- An OpenEdition platform**: A paragraph describing the platform's role within the OpenEdition ecosystem, followed by a link "OpenEdition" with a red arrow.

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Thanks for the attention