



NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS, CONCEPT AND MOTIVATION

Seen from above, **Taranto has a rich history** that intertwines with the sea and unfolds in the ancient village, among noble palaces and underground jewels.

It is called “**the city of the two seas**”, Taranto, on the coasts the **Mar Grande** and the **Mar Piccolo**, with a strategic position that made it the protagonist of important historical events.

The most precious ancient artifacts are kept at the **National Archaeological Museum**, the MARTA, where it is possible to admire the famous “**Taranto Jewels**”, refined productions of the local goldsmith’s art between the IV and II century BC, in addition to the immense collection of archaeological finds from all over the Ionian province.

Part of Taranto’s history is displayed by the two bridges that connect the old city to the modern one. In addition to the **stone bridge** built after the flood of 1883, the **revolving bridge** opened in 1887 continues to have the charm of great mechanical engineering works and leads into the maze of alleys around the central Via Cava, along which several artisan shops flourish.

In this isthmus of land noble architectures and churches of different periods and styles stand such as the **Cathedral of San Cataldo** in the Romanesque and Baroque style, or that of **San Domenico** with Gothic features.

The candidacy of Taranto and the Ionian area to host the Mediterranean Games 2025 arises from a desire for rebirth and redemption of a wonderful land that has been for too long penalized by industrial choices that have blurred its beauty and potentiality in terms of attractiveness, tourism, sports and territorial marketing.

This need to **relaunch the territory** together with a strategic planning that is being carried out on the whole area finds the candidacy to host the Games as a moment of synthesis, a strong opportunity for Taranto to **demonstrate all its capabilities** and to be able to exploit the best of the le-



gacy that such an event brings with it in terms of infrastructure, investments, visibility, marketing, tourism. Taranto enjoys a series of advantages that wants to put at the service of the candidacy; **it has a very important port area, a long coast with huge potentiality, the view of the two seas, Mar Grande and Mar Piccolo, and the involvement of a series of neighbouring municipalities with existing sport facility equipment** which will make the bid economically sustainable.

From a receptive point of view, since the Ionian one is an area that has important well-equipped and served **tourist villages**, the existing facilities for the **Village athletes** and professionals will be used.

If we add a **mild and favourable climate** for almost the whole year, it is not difficult to understand how Taranto has all the characteristics to be able to host an international event of this importance to enhance its international image.

Sports – and in particular a major event such as the **Mediterranean Games** – can only be a **part of a broader and more composite program** by Local Authorities: this is the case of Taranto and its **candidacy for Italy** at the 20th edition of the Mediterranean Games 2025, **conceived within the frame of the Strategic Plan**, promoted by the Apulia Region and the Municipality of Taranto. It is a wide-ranging program, that aims to define a **new vision of eco-sustainable development of the City** and of the entire Ionian territory, that will show the process of urban regeneration and economic transformation underway aimed at environmental sustainability and the recovery of historical heritage and culture in the city.

As it has already happened in other areas of urban crisis, in Italy and abroad, **an international sporting event such as the Mediterranean Games represents an opportunity to revive the historical and cultural identity, not only of the Ionian center, but also the Mediterranean and the history of Magna Graecia.**

This event may, therefore, act as an instrument of self-discovery by the community, leaving a tangible legacy in the territory, in terms of infrastructure and international relationships.



The ability to make “a system” between national and, above all, local organizations will be fundamental, with a view to a virtuous partnership already developed, at the national level, for the candidacy for the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics 2026.

LEGAL ASPECTS, SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT, OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SPORTS AUTHORITIES AND OF THE PUBLIC OPINION

TARANTO 2025: A FULLY SHARED CANDIDACY

The candidacy of Taranto to organize the XX Mediterranean Games enjoys the full support of the Italian State, the Italian National Olympic Committee (national, regional, provincial level), the Apulia Region, the Province of Taranto and all the Municipalities to various titles affected by the application. With the coordination of the national CONI, of the CONI Apulia and of the CONI Taranto, all the Sports Federations have been active since the beginning in support of the candidacy, and have contributed among other things to the definition of the present Dossier.

As described in more detail in the following point 4, **the Mediterranean Village will not be built from scratch**: The Athletes and staff will be accommodated in the existing international tourist-hotel villages on the Taranto coast (Castellaneta Marina).

The involvement of the Taranto community has been present since the starting stages (2018) of the Candidacy, in particular during the activities for the definition of the “Taranto Futuro Prossimo” Strategic Plan, of which Taranto 2025 is one of the main widely shared plans.



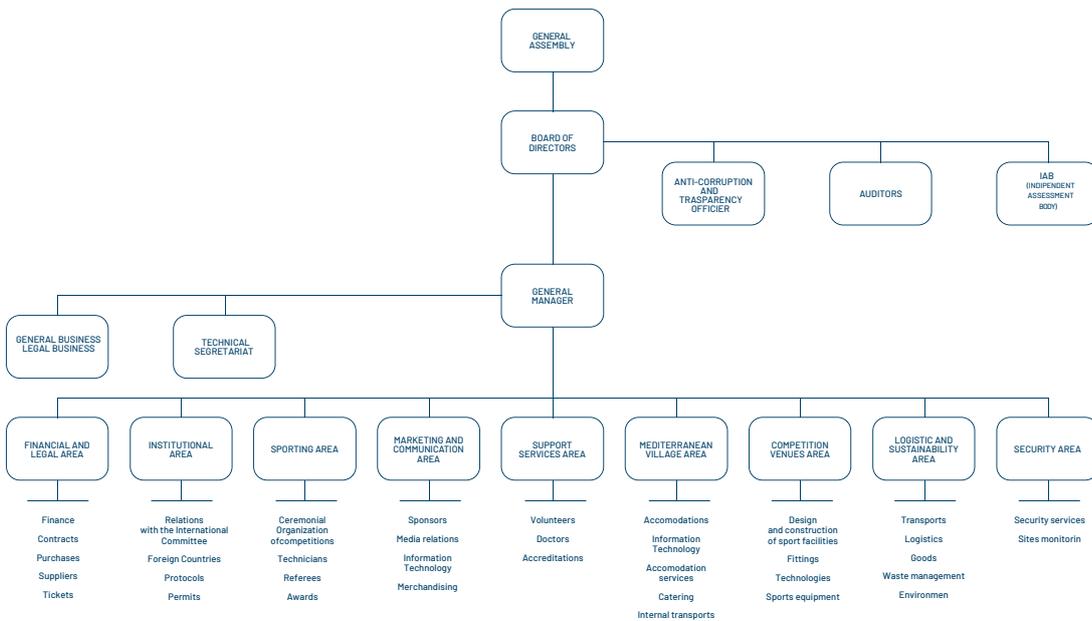
THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (OCMG)

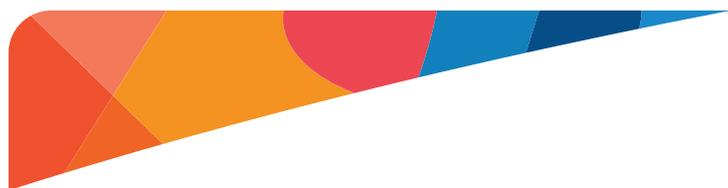
The “Organizing Committee of Taranto 2025 - XX Mediterranean Games” (OCMG) will be a legal entity, with its statutes, which will be in direct communication with the **Executive Committee of the International Committee of the Mediterranean Games (ICMG EC)**. The OCMG will be located in Taranto city centre, in a prestigious historical building of public property.

The **OCMG directive and executive body** will be composed by the following subjects:

- Mayor of the City of Taranto, or his/her delegate;
- President of the Apulia Region;
- President of the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI);
- President of the Taranto province.

The organization chart proposed for the Organizing Committee is shown in the following diagram:





EXPERIENCE IN THE ORGANISATION OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SPORTS EVENTS

Apulia boasts a great sporting tradition, both in terms of athletes and in terms of organizing events and competitions.

Some of the main events organized in Apulia in recent years are listed below:

- **XIII Mediterranean Games, in Bari, June 1997:**
3473 athletes from 21 nations competed in 25 disciplines for a total of 234 races and 742 medals
- **World diving championships CMAS**
(World Confederation of Underwater Activities) 2007;
- **Qualification for the European Men's Basketball Championships** (2010);
- Two stages of the **2014 Giro d'Italia** through Apulia starting from Taranto and two other stops in Apulia in 2016
- **Italian Championships Senior Black Belts and Italian Taekwondo Championships** 2018;
- **Final Eight Italian Cup men's and women's Handball** 2018 (Conversano);
- **40th edition of men's volleyball Italian Cup** (gennaio 2018);
- **Women's Volleyball World Championships** 2014 (Bari);
- **Men's Volleyball World Championships** 2016 (Bari);
- **Women's synchronized swimming championships** (giugno-luglio 2017);
- **Final round of men's water polo FinalFour Italian Cup** 2018;
- **Finals of men's water polo FinalEight Cup** 2019;
- **National Finals U16 of Excellence 2019 - Basketball** (Taranto);
- **Regatta Brindisi-Corfù**, annual event now in its 34th edition;
- **International football match between Italy and France** in September 2016;
- **International football match between Italy and Spain** in August 2014;
- **Qualifications European Football Championships 2012** Italy and Scotland;
- **European Sailing Championships, Class 420** in Taranto in 1997 and Equipe in Trani in 2002;



- **Mediterranean Sailing Championship**, IMS Class in 2006, Brindisi;
- **Red Bull Cliff Diving**, a 24-meter-high diving competition every year since 2012 (Polignano a Mare);
- **Men's Olympic Volleyball Qualifying Tournament** (August 2019);
- **European Taekwondo Championships** (November 2019).

At the moment there are no further international sporting events in Italy scheduled to coincide with the holding of the XX Mediterranean Games. The organization of volunteers and officials will be a strength of this edition, as it was a key to the success of the Mediterranean Games 1997. All the local committees of Sports Federations, associated disciplines and sports promotion bodies will be involved, as well as all the amateur sports associations and societies of the territory. In Apulia there is a good operational base of both professionals and volunteers, a high level of organization of competitions and events. Sports clubs and organizations are very active in the area and these widespread contributions will be necessary for the success of the event.

Important test events will be scheduled to consolidate the organizational machinery of the Games and train the technical staff and the volunteers to be employed during the international event. In particular, the **test events will be oriented to hosting important events related to sea sports and the most widespread sports, such as athletics, swimming, volleyball, basketball, cycling, etc.**