



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

# BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT MEDITERRANEAN

## INSTITUTIONAL BROCHURE



[ufmsecretariat.org](http://ufmsecretariat.org)



The UfM Secretariat  
is co-funded by the  
EUROPEAN UNION

# Contents



Union for the Mediterranean  
 Union pour la Méditerranée  
 الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

About Us .....	4
Enhancing regional stability, development and integration.....	5
A renewed post-2020 Mediterranean agenda.....	6
Stories of Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation .....	8
Economic Development & Employment.....	10
Social & Civil Affairs .....	12
Higher Education & Research.....	14
Energy & Climate Action .....	16
Water, Environment & Blue Economy .....	18
Transport & Urban Development .....	20
28 November The Day of the Mediterranean.....	22

# About Us



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

## What is the Union for the Mediterranean?

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is an intergovernmental organisation that brings together 43 countries to enhance regional cooperation and dialogue through the implementation of concrete projects and initiatives addressing inclusive and sustainable development, stability and integration in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

As a direct continuation of the Barcelona Process, the launch of the UfM in July 2008 was a true reflection of its Member States' shared political commitment to enhance the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

## 43 Members

Albania / Algeria / Austria / Belgium / Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bulgaria / Croatia / Cyprus / Czech Republic / Denmark / Egypt / Estonia / Finland / France / Germany / Greece / Hungary / Ireland / Israel / Italy / Jordan / Latvia / Lebanon / Lithuania / Luxemburg / Malta / Mauritania / Monaco / Montenegro / Morocco / Netherlands / North Macedonia / Palestine / Poland / Portugal / Romania / Slovakia / Slovenia / Spain / Sweden / Syria\* / Tunisia / Türkiye

*\*Syria suspended its membership in December 2011 | Libya has an observer status*

## UfM Senior Officials

The Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean meet on a regular basis at the level of Senior Officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs. The Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) provide the framework to discuss the current regional context, coordinate the work of the UfM Secretariat and endorse new development projects to which the UfM label is given.

## 2 Co-Presidents

The EU and Jordan have assumed the Northern and Southern co-presidency since 2012, embodying the UfM **principle of co-ownership**.

## 1 Secretariat

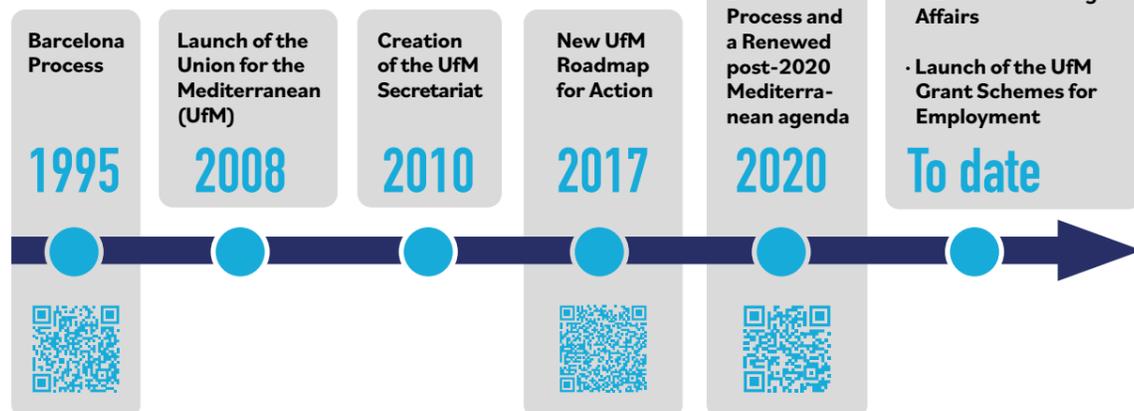
Established in 2010 in Barcelona, the UfM Secretariat is the first permanent structure dedicated to the implementation of this partnership.

It ensures operational follow-up of the regional priorities and supports the implementation of region-wide cooperation projects and initiatives.

- +60 labelled projects
- +35 UfM sectoral Ministerial Meetings
- Annual UfM Regional Fora with UfM Ministers of Foreign Affairs
- Launch of the UfM Grant Schemes for Employment

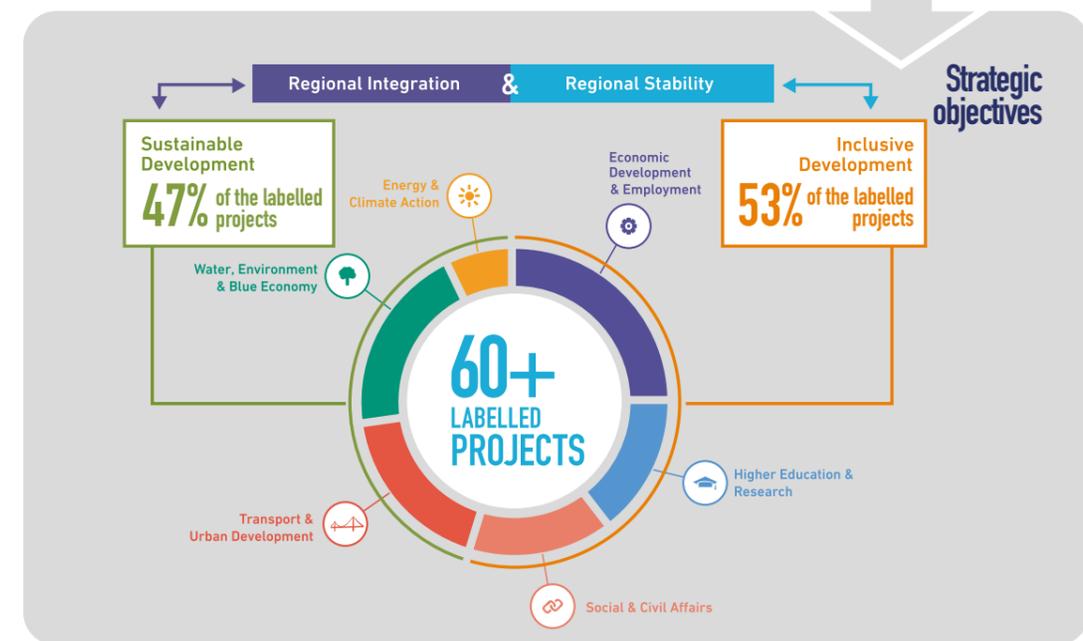
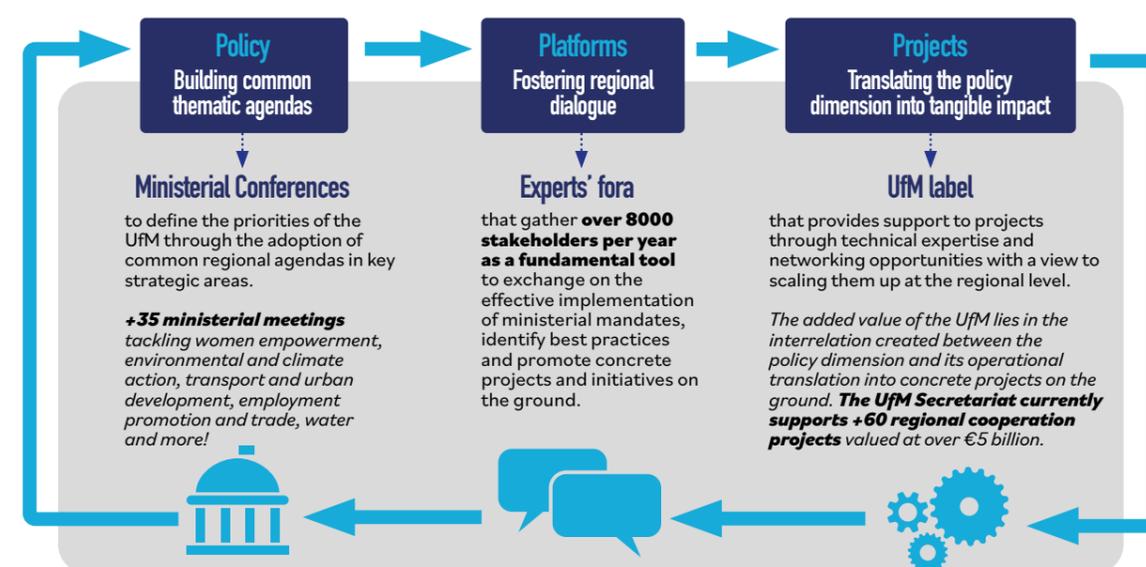
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Barcelona Process and a Renewed post-2020 Mediterranean agenda

To date



# Enhancing regional stability, development and integration

## How does the UfM operationalize its mandate? The 3P's Methodology



# A renewed post-2020 Mediterranean agenda

Consult the UfM Roadmap for action:



**The scope and scale of the challenges faced by the Euro-Mediterranean region require to be addressed through a comprehensive, balanced and concerted approach.** Regional frameworks such as the UfM are becoming increasingly pivotal to foster effective cooperation, especially in one of the least integrated regions in the world.

UfM activities tackle the main strategic objectives of the region – regional integration, development and stability – by concentrating efforts on fostering inclusive and sustainable development.

**The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of UfM Member States adopted**, at the occasion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> UfM Regional Forum in Barcelona in 2017, a **Roadmap for action to strengthen regional cooperation in the Mediterranean and implement a positive**

**agenda for the region**, capitalising on its immense untapped potential, and particularly its youth.

**Building integrated, inclusive and sustainable post-pandemic societies: five renewed priorities for the UfM**

In November 2020, on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Barcelona Process, UfM Member States recognised the need to prioritise, in the years to come, five areas of action where the UfM can play a crucial role and provide for comparative advantages towards a sustainable post-pandemic recovery, paving the way for the creation of more resilient societies and economies in the region.

Starting in 2021, the UfM has focused its work on the following areas:

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE ACTION

Particular attention is given to promoting **sustainable, green, low-carbon and cir-**

**cular resource-efficient economies, and reversing the dramatic loss of biodiversity in the Mediterranean region.**

## SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Fragmentation in the region has grown in the past years and the gap has been increasing between the countries in the Northern and the Southern of the Mediterranean. Efforts must be focused on the crucial

**employment challenges, mainly for young people, as well as on the important issue of investment, in order to tackle the challenges in this specific domain. Furthermore, investing in the important human capital and the vast natural resources of the region will be key to deploy its full potential, as well as increasing regional trade exchanges in a post-pandemic context.**

## SOCIAL INCLUSIVENESS AND EQUALITY

Leaving no one behind continues to be a priority for UfM member states to guarantee an inclusive socio-economic develop-

ment in the region. For that, particular attention is given to closing the **gender gap and achieving equality**, in terms of rights and opportunities, empowering young people and involving them further, as well as creating more space for civil society.

## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

In a **digital, global and hyper-connected world, integrating new technologies into businesses and education systems is no longer a matter of choice, in order to keep up and adapt to innovation and competition. This tendency has been exa-**

cerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has shown the divide existing in the Euro-Mediterranean region in terms of digital access and digital use. The UfM strives to use digitalisation to enhance a smart, innovative and sustainable economic development, which will also facilitate trade interlinkages in the region and could become an essential tool to tackle youth unemployment.

## CIVIL PROTECTION

Since the launch of the Barcelona Process, civil protection has been at the heart of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. With an increasing number of forest fires, floods, earthquakes, marine pollution, pandemics, and other catastrophes across the region

in the last few years, cooperation among UfM Member States in civil protection enjoys high levels of political support. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the need to build stronger regional civil protection mechanisms and networks, which will benefit not only countries on a national level but also as a region through resource and knowledge sharing.

Learn more about the EU agenda for the Mediterranean:



## The EU renewed agenda for the Mediterranean

Following consultations with the Southern Mediterranean countries to relaunch and strengthen their strategic partnership, and in close consultation with the UfM, the EU adopted in February 2021 an ambitious and innovative **new Agenda for the Mediterranean.**

The Agenda aims to join forces in fighting climate change and speeding up the green and digital transitions, to renew the commitment to shared values, to jointly address forced displacement and migration, and to promote peace and security in the Mediterranean region.

**The new EU Agenda coincides importantly with the five priority areas of action laid**

**out by UfM Member States in 2020**, and will contribute to addressing the pressing challenges faced in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The Agenda further underlines the EU's renewed confidence in the UfM's role in enhancing regional cooperation, and as a privileged dialogue forum for its 43 Member States.

The Agenda includes a dedicated Economic and Investment Plan to spur the long-term socio-economic recovery in the Southern Mediterranean. Under the new EU's Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), up to €7 billion for the 2021-2027 period would be allocated to its implementation, which could mobilise up to €30 billion in private and public investment in the region in the next decade.

# Stories of Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation

## From 66 to 25,000 empowered women: the multiplying effect of training programmes

Lina Khalifeh is among the **66 women from the southern Mediterranean who took part in the UfM-labelled project Women of the Mediterranean**: The Next Generation of Leaders (WOMED), which provides training programmes in leadership and gender equality to women aged between 25-35.

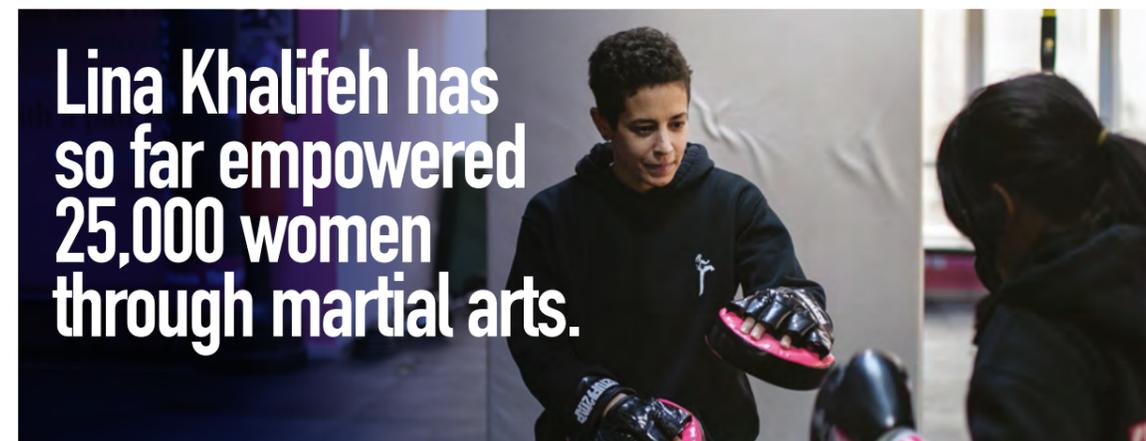
**ded SheFighter, the first self-defense studio of its kind in the Middle East.** Lina has so far empowered 25,000 women through martial arts training and has received many distinctions, including the United Nations Women in Business Award.

Following her participation in the programme, **Lina, a black belt in Taekwondo, foun-**

Read Lina Khalifeh's story:



Learn more about the WOMED project:



**Lina Khalifeh has so far empowered 25,000 women through martial arts.**

## The importance of human connections in civil protection

A former top-level track and field athlete, **Captain Laurent Alfonso is a French professional fire officer.** His long career has sent him to almost all corners of the world to provide training, support or participate in major rescue operations, creating bonds and human connections along the way.

factor is always the human factor. In his own words, **the COVID-19 pandemic showed that it was, for instance, the collective intelligence and solidarity that prevailed.**

Since February 2022, Captain Laurent Alfonso is seconded by the Government of France to the Union for the Mediterranean to support the creation of Euro-Mediterranean platforms and working tools on civil protection.

Read Captain Laurent Alfonso's story:



Learn more about the UfM Regional Platform on Civil Protection:



As an EU Civil Protection expert, Captain Alfonso insists that when it comes to civil security and protection, the most important

## A partnership to support climate mitigation and adaptation efforts in the Mediterranean

The UfM and the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) **have united their efforts to support the Mediterranean countries and regional partners in addressing the challenges posed by climate change.**

Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S). This collaborating has resulted in the creation of two Apps, specifically addressing high-priority topics in the Mediterranean region.

The partnership has a special focus on **providing new tools for mitigation and adaptation to all stakeholders in the region.** To make these tools and valuable data accessible to as many institutions as possible, the UfM and ECMWF are collaborating to implement Copernicus Services like the

The first application focuses on the impact of sea level rise on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites located in the Mediterranean Basin, while the second App is designed for the health sector, with a specific focus on the impact of climate change on the suitability of Mediterranean habitats for air-borne vectors of disease.

Learn more about the two Apps designed with the ECMWF here:

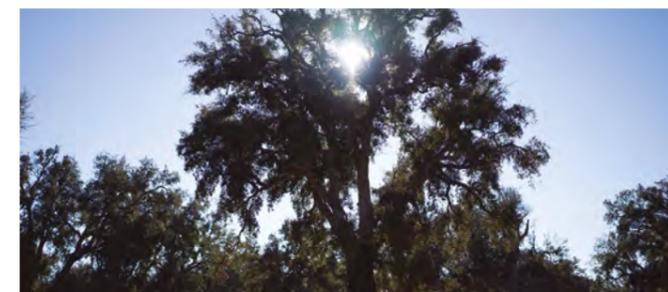


## Women challenging disability in the Mediterranean

Patricia and Jahda live on opposite sides of the Mediterranean but share the same fight: ensuring that people living with disabilities can enjoy a dignified and financially independent life. From Spain to Lebanon, both are firm believers in the need for enhanced regional cooperation to ensure social inclusion and economic empowerment for all.



Read on to learn more about their journey:



**The maintenance of healthy forested landscapes is essential for reducing the impacts of climate change.**

## Restoring our planet's lungs

The Mediterranean region holds **over 80 million hectares of degraded land. More than 400,000 hectares of forests are burned each year, and at least 16 animal and plant species in Mediterranean forests are at risk of extinction,** due to environmental threats such as climate change. Forests play a key role in providing and protecting ecosystem services and biodiversity. The maintenance of healthy forested landscapes is essential

for reducing the impacts of climate change. **With a total budget of 1,850,000 euros over a 4-year period,** the project "Scaling up forest and landscape restoration", promoted by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), is building regional and national capacity for the implementation of large-scale Forest and Landscape Restoration programmes.

Discover the project in video:



Learn more about the project Scaling up forest and landscape restoration, here:



# Economic Development & Employment

[ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/business-development](http://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/business-development)



## INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION



**80%**  
of jobs

are **created by SMEs** in the **Euro-Mediterranean region**

Source: ILO Report on SMEs and employment creation



by 2050 more than **300 million young people** will be entering the job market in mena region

Source: World Bank, 2019

**Trade flow distribution** in the Euro-Mediterranean region indicate that **90% happen within the EU** while only **1% of trade flows are made among the Southern Mediterranean neighbours**

Source: UfM-OECD Regional Integration Report, 2021

The Mediterranean region has one of the highest rates of unemployment in the world, and is the least integrated economically. In this context, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is engaged in the implementation of specific projects and initiatives focused on the development of businesses, trade facilitation, employment opportunities and employability skills.

There is a particular emphasis on youth and women, thus addressing cross-cutting issues such as the promotion of women's socio-economic empowerment and the enhancement of youth employability. Particular attention is devoted to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), vectors for innovation and economic growth in the Mediterranean region.

### Priorities

- Foster job creation and support the development of SMEs through the UfM Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4Jobs)
- Support creative industries, digital economy and social and solidarity economy in the region
- Develop a strategy for private sector development, advancing industrial cooperation, trade and investments in the region

## Political framework

Check out the complete list of Ministerial conferences and declarations on areas such as Employment and Labour, Trade, Digital Economy and Industrial Cooperation:



## Regional dialogue platforms

Discover the work of the UfM Regional dialogue platforms on areas such as Employment and Labour, Trade and Industrial Cooperation:



## ZOOM ON KEY PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

More projects at [www.ufmsecretariat.org](http://www.ufmsecretariat.org)

### Focus on the results of the first edition of the UfM Grant Scheme



With the UfM Grant Scheme for employment promotion, the organisation is actively supporting non-profit organisations in the Mediterranean that work to create job opportunities in view of the COVID-19-induced economic crisis.

#### Launch in August 2020

to respond to the employment crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic with the financial support of the German Development Cooperation

#### 4 region-wide projects

benefitting 18,000 individuals in 7 UfM Member States - Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia

#### Fields of

entrepreneurship, women empowerment, sustainable tourism, as well as education and research

#### Overall budget of

€1.13 million



Learn more here:

### 2021 First-ever Report on Regional Integration in the Union for the Mediterranean

In order to inform policy-making, the UfM seeks to monitor trends in regional integration over time, assess progress made, and identify areas for improvement. To that end, the UfM Secretariat commissioned the OECD to prepare the first Progress Report on Regional Integration, completed in 2021.

The report shows that integration has advanced in the UfM region, but progress has been slow and remains below its potential in terms of capacities and resources. The report highlights two important challenges that still stand: inadequate infrastructure for transport and energy connectivity, and a lack of common vision on human mobility as a driver of innovation and growth in the region.



Discover the report's findings here:

# Social & Civil Affairs

[ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/social-civil-affairs](http://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/social-civil-affairs)



## PROTECTING AND EMPOWERING CITIZENS



Closing the gender gap in the region could potentially add 47 percent to the **GDP GROWTH by 2025**

Source: World Bank 2019

Compared to the global average, **Europe and the MENA region are below the 6.2% global percentage of women entrepreneurs who own a business** (5.3% and 4.5% respectively).



Source: UfM Regional Progress Report on Gender Equality, 2021

**50% of the population in the south Mediterranean countries is under 25 years old** compared to

→ **27.8% in the EU**

Source: Eurostat; CIA World Factbook

### Priorities

- Build and consolidate a regional common agenda to empower youth and women as main drivers for the region's development and stability

- Promote a Euro-Mediterranean dialogue and cooperation in the field of civil protection, in view of better prevention, preparedness and response in the face of natural and man-made catastrophes

**Youth and women** constitute a huge resource as agents for change and the future of each country's development. They are and can be a source of creativity and innovation, if an enabling environment is provided to facilitate their full participation and engagement. Their role in creating jobs, preventing climate change, addressing community needs or providing mediation services is everywhere demonstrated.

The focus on human and inclusive development, through youth and women empowerment, as a main contribution to addressing the root causes of the current challenges faced by the Euro-Mediterranean region is at the heart of the UfM strategy. But inclusive development also means looking out for **persons with disabilities**, who face pervasive inequalities and discriminations in the enjoyment of all their economic and social rights, such as their right

to education, employment, social protection or health.

Last but not least, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the need to build stronger **regional civil protection** services and networks, to better protect citizens in the face of increasing catastrophes. Since 2019, the UfM and the European Commission have worked hand in hand to develop an action plan for strengthened Euro-Mediterranean cooperation on prevention campaigns, emergency response and crisis management.

The UfM action and strategies for social and civil affairs have been progressively built and structured over the past years in close coordination with the UfM Member States and with the involvement of key stakeholders operating in the region, notably the civil society.

## Political framework

Check out the complete list of Ministerial conferences and declarations on Strengthening the role of women in society:



## Regional dialogue platforms

Discover the work of the UfM Regional dialogue platforms on areas such as Women empowerment, youth and civil protection:



## ZOOM ON KEY PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

More projects at [www.ufmsecretariat.org](http://www.ufmsecretariat.org)

### Promoting women empowerment for inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the MENA region

This project aims at enhancing women's economic inclusion by **harnessing the great potential of women entrepreneurs in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia** and create the conditions for a sustainable and inclusive growth. Labelled by the UfM with a total budget of €4.5 million, the project is promoted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and constitutes the first regional best practice with an integrated approach to support women entrepreneurship.

*Mediterranean human story*

**NOORA ABDEEN KHALIFEH**

**Women in business: Building on the past to create a resilient future**



“*Women are partners to one another and with such partnership, collaboration and exchange of culture and experiences, we can aim so high and shine in the fashion industry and the business world*”

Discover the entrepreneurial adventure of the Palestinian designer here



### First-ever Intergovernmental Monitoring Mechanism on Gender Equality in the Euro-Mediterranean Region

The UfM launched the first-ever Intergovernmental Monitoring Mechanism on Gender Equality, conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic and published in March 2022, showing the impact this crisis had on women. This ongoing reporting exercise allows for measuring and reporting the progress made on women's rights and provides policy recommendations to close the gender gap in the region.

Check out the report's findings here:



# Higher Education & Research

[ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/higher-education-research](https://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/higher-education-research)



## IMPROVING MOBILITY AND EMPLOYABILITY THROUGH EDUCATION

**32% of enterprises**

in some Southern Mediterranean countries have identified **skill shortages as a major constraint to hiring**

Source: UNDP Arab Knowledge Report



**Young people not enrolled in education, employment or training ("NEETs")** is a growing concern in the region, with **national rates ranging from 14% to 32% for the 15-24 age group**

Source: Eurofound 2018

**1/4 Higher education graduates**

**in North Africa are unemployed**

Source: "The Future of Jobs and Skills in the Middle East and North Africa" (2017)

Regional cooperation efforts in the fields of higher education, research, and innovation, as well as vocational training and mobility play an essential role in achieving a positive agenda for youth in the Mediterranean due to their potential on increasing employability, promoting intercultural dialogue, deepening social cohesion, and preventing extremism. The collaboration with the UfM Member States to properly implement and expand in the region the Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe programs - especially the Mediterranean Initiative - are key political objectives.

The activities of the UfM in the area of Higher Education and Research also aim as well to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, SDG 8.6 - Reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (NEETs), and SDGs where research and innovation play a crucial role.

### Priorities

- Speeding up regional processes of Higher Education Internationalisation, especially through the Erasmus+ program.
- Scaling-up learning opportunities in a Euro-Mediterranean environment; fostering regional initiatives and projects in the areas of school-to-work transition and vocational training.
- Contributing to the implementation of the 2022 Ministerial Declaration on Research and Innovation, promoting scientific cooperation on climate change, renewable energy, health, food security, and blue economy, notably through Horizon Europe and the PRIMA initiative.
- Fostering green knowledge and skills through an innovation-employability nexus for students and researchers; endorsing a positive Science Diplomacy agenda in the Mediterranean.

## Political framework

Check out the complete list of Ministerial conferences and declarations on areas such as Research and innovation, Higher education and scientific cooperation and on Vocational training:



## Regional dialogue platforms

Discover the work of the UfM Regional dialogue platforms on areas such as the Internationalisation of Higher education and on Research and Innovation:



## ZOOM ON KEY PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

More projects at [www.ufmsecretariat.org](https://www.ufmsecretariat.org)

### Mediterranean New Chance (MedNC)

The project aims to promote a regional network of accredited orientation, training and **professional integration** centres to establish a shared and innovative teaching model with a view to **boosting the employability of unemployed graduates and young people who didn't finish school.**

*Education is one of the best instruments to be able to achieve and mobilise ourselves to make the world a better place for everyone*

### MEDNC

Rebuilding confidence, restarting futures

Begonya Gasch Yagüe, Founder and Director General of El Llindar



### The Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes

The Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes (UEMF), a flagship project of the UfM, aims at **contributing to stability and integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region** through the promotion of dialogue, intercultural exchange, sharing of knowledge and cooperation in the fields of higher education, research and innovation. The UEMF is framed within the UfM cross-sectorial **Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4Jobs)**. **Read more about the UEMF here:**



# Energy & Climate Action

[ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/energy-and-climate-action](http://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/energy-and-climate-action)



**BOOSTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE REGION**



**A 62% increase in energy demand is estimated in Southern Mediterranean countries by 2040**

Source: OME, 2017

From 2010 to 2016, the registered growth in Renewable Energy Capacity in the UfM Region is over **60%**

Source: IRENA

**1.5C - The rise of Average temperature** not to be surpassed as agreed through the Paris Agreement is **already being exceeded in the Mediterranean region**

Source: IPCC, 2018

The Mediterranean countries face today common energy and climate challenges that require a high level of multilateral responses and collective actions. A reinforced cooperation in the energy and climate action fields is needed and represents an opportunity for both shores of the Mediterranean to achieve the ultimate goal of fostering the integration and the social and economic development in the region.

The Union for the Mediterranean acts as a unique platform to facilitate and promote regional dialogue and cooperation as well as concrete projects and initiatives in the fields of Energy and Climate Action in order to deal with energy and climate change challenges in the region while advancing towards more secure and sustainable energy models.

The UfM has observer status at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

## Priorities

- Promote and address energy and climate change priorities in the region, to support the development of a shared Mediterranean agenda and contribute to the climate change commitment in the framework of the Paris agreement.
- Mobilize regional stakeholders and facilitate the implementation of energy and climate change agendas through structured dialogue platforms, working groups, and collaborative meetings with Mediterranean entities.
- Facilitate and promote initiatives, projects, and partnerships in energy and climate change that generate tangible regional impact on the ground, fostering sustainable and inclusive development across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

## Political framework

Check out the complete list of Ministerial conferences and declarations on areas such as Energy and Environment and climate change:



## Regional dialogue platforms

Discover the work of the UfM Energy Platforms and the UfM Climate Change Expert Group:



## ZOOM ON KEY PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

More projects at [www.ufmsecretariat.org](http://www.ufmsecretariat.org)

### First-ever scientific assessment report on climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean

The UfM supported the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC), composed of over 600 scientists from across the Euro-Mediterranean region, to develop the first-ever scientific report on the impacts of climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean.

The MedECC is currently working on the publication of three new special thematic reports tackling Climate and environmental coastal risks, Climate-food-water-energy-ecosystem nexus and the link between Environmental change, conflict, and human migration.

Read more about the report's findings here:



Check out the UfM website to stay up to date!

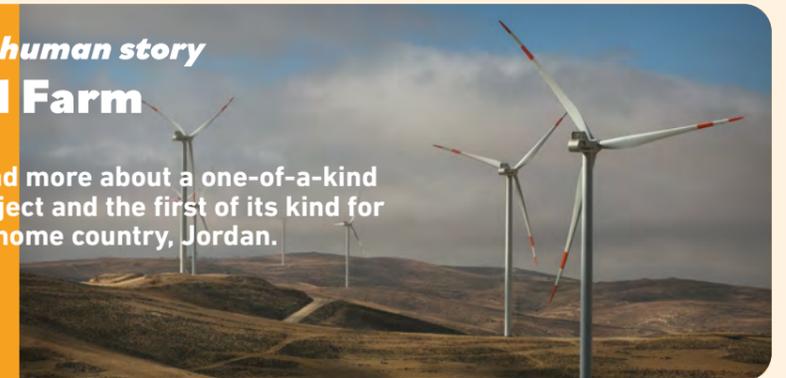
### Tafila Wind Farm: on the making of a renewable energy industry in Jordan

The Tafila Wind Farm breaks new ground for renewable energy projects in the Mediterranean. The 117 MW-wind farm serves well the regional objectives related to energy efficiency and decarbonization. The project was replicated in other countries as it paved the way for changing the regulatory and financial aspects governing investments in renewable energies in the region.

### Mediterranean human story Tafila Wind Farm



Read more about a one-of-a-kind project and the first of its kind for its home country, Jordan.



# Water, Environment & Blue Economy

[ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/water-environment](http://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/water-environment)



**PROMOTING WATER AND ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**



The Mediterranean basin, extending over **more than 2 million** square kilometres, is the world's **second largest biodiversity hotspot**

Source: FAO, 2018

The cost of **marine debris clean-ups** across the EU is estimated at **€630 million per year**

Source: European Commission, 2018



More than **180 million people** in the region are considered **water poor** and an additional **60 million face water stress**

Source: FAO, 2016

The Mediterranean region offers an immense potential for the sustainable, environmental-friendly development of its people. The UfM promotes regional cooperation to protect the Mediterranean Sea and the natural resources of the countries belonging to its area, and supports partnerships inspired by 'green/blue' circular economy principles.

Serious environmental threats, including water scarcity, put at risk this potential. Sustainable access, provision and use of water are key concerns. Particularly the areas along the southern and eastern shores of the region are among the world's most water-scarce, with more than 180 million people facing water stress as well as water pollution problems. The UfM supports the implementation of regional agendas on Water, Environment and Blue Economy through several initiatives.

## Priorities

- Promote integrated water resources management and ensure access to water resources and affordable water services
- Protect the Mediterranean Sea and its environment, contributing to depollution and pollution prevention efforts in the region
- Promote the green and blue economies

## Political framework

Check out the complete list of Ministerial conferences and declarations on areas such as Environment and climate change, Sustainable blue economy and Water:



## Regional dialogue platforms

Discover the work of the UfM Regional dialogue platforms on areas such as Environment and climate change, Blue economy and Water:



## ZOOM ON KEY PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

More projects at [www.ufmsecretariat.org](http://www.ufmsecretariat.org)

### UfM Water Agenda



More about the UfM Water Agenda:

The UfM Water Agenda was put together in consultation with UfM Member States in order to guarantee it responds to the needs of all countries. It sets out a series of technical and financial recommendations, which aim to ensure that each country receives the necessary advice to help achieve water security for its populations and their economic activities.

The UfM Water Agenda, comprises a Policy Framework for Actions 2030 and a financial strategy.

### Plastic Busters: ridding the Mediterranean of marine litter

The Plastic Busters project has a remarkable objective: to tackle the issue of marine litter in the Mediterranean. Over the last years, this Union for the Mediterranean-supported project has worked towards this goal in both the Northern and Southern Mediterranean regions by addressing the whole lifecycle of marine litter waste management.

“One of the dreams of the Plastic Busters project is to bind together the South and the North in order to reach the main goal to reduce the impact of marine litter on biodiversity in the entire Mediterranean”

**CRISTINA FOSSI**

Professor at the University of Siena and Plastic Busters Director

Learn more about the project and the people behind it!



# Transport & Urban Development

[ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/transport-urban-development](http://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/transport-urban-development)



PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND INNOVATIVE URBAN PROJECTS AND FACILITATING TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY OVER LAND AND SEA



The cost of trade between neighbours is twice as high among the MENA economies compared with those of Western Europe

Source: World Bank, 2018

60% of the Mediterranean population is living in urban areas, where the rapid increase in urban population constitutes a major challenge for sustainable urban development

Source: EIB 2017

Nearly 80% of the Mediterranean countries' populations will be concentrated on 10% of the land – predominantly the coastline – by 2030

Source: EIB 2017

Easy and safe access to flows of goods and people over land and sea is essential for regional prosperity and integration. The UfM is actively engaged towards addressing the complex challenges facing the transport sector and developing an efficient, integrated, interoperable and sustainable transport infrastructure network through a holistic and integrated approach, with a view to improving transport connectivity in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Sustainable urbanization is key to addressing climate change, and cities are potential drivers for sustainable development, economic growth and stability. With this in mind, the UfM works to implement the UfM Urban Agenda for the Mediterranean region following a cooperative approach that underscores the joint efforts of governments, local and regional authorities,

developers, financiers and civil society, with the ultimate aim of improving the liveability of Mediterranean urban areas by ensuring that urban growth is turned into opportunities.

## Priorities

- Develop a regional transport network fostering socio-economic development and regional integration
- Contribute to implementing the UfM Urban Agenda with a view to fostering inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable urban development

## Political framework

Check out the complete list of Ministerial conferences and declarations on areas such as Urban Development and Transport:



## Regional dialogue platforms

Discover the work of the UfM Regional dialogue platforms on areas such as Sustainable Urban Development and Transport Connectivity:



## ZOOM ON KEY PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

More projects at [www.ufmsecretariat.org](http://www.ufmsecretariat.org)

### UfM Urban Agenda: Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040

The UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040 establishes a common vision to tackle urban challenges in the region. It is the result of a 3-year collaboration between the European Commission and all UfM Member States, aiming to improve the quality of life for all citizens by building better, more inclusive, climate-resilient communities.

## UfM URBAN AGENDA

### UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040

Click or scan the code to learn more about the UfM Urban Agenda



### TransLogMED

Over a five-year period, the project aims to foster regional integration in the Mediterranean, enhance professional performance, and promote employment and gender equality in the transport and logistics sectors. These aims are achieved through various actions, including the promotion of inter-modal transport solutions, the implementation of training and knowledge-transfer activities, and the development of sustainable transport chains and door-to-door logistics activities.

Read more about the project here:



The project benefits almost 1,000 professionals in the transport and logistics sectors from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Italy, Morocco, Spain, and Tunisia.

# 28 November The Day of the Mediterranean



[mediterraneanday.com](http://mediterraneanday.com)

Learn more about the Day of the Mediterranean on its dedicated website!



### What is it?

In November 2020, the Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean declared the 28<sup>th</sup> of November as the official Day of the Mediterranean, to be marked annually, calling upon the entire Mediterranean community and everyone who identifies with the Mediterranean to celebrate its rich and diverse heritage.

The Mediterranean evokes a wide array of emotions and is an irreplaceable feature of our lives. A fascinating land to some, a source of livelihood for others and a home to many. It is here in the Mediterranean that the past is ever-present and the “other” is never far.

This unanimous decision by Member States comes at a challenging time, as we face unprecedented crises. However, we cannot afford to lose hope. We must remember – and celebrate – how rich the Mediterranean is: rich in history, in natural resources, and in people. Our region holds immense potential

for our story to continue as one of hope, as we build the future we all want to see.

### Announce your event or activity on the official website

The **official website** of the Day of the Mediterranean is live. **Let’s make it the go-to page for all that matters in the Mediterranean.** Whether you organise a large conference or hold a talk at a local university, as long as your focus is on the Mediterranean, register on the official website and **publish your event**. We want to connect communities around the region and show how collaboration can bring about positive change!

### Brand your activity

Illustrate your activities with appealing visuals, starting with the official logo! Countless applications are possible, but here’s a good starting point:



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط





Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



The UfM Secretariat  
is co-funded by the  
EUROPEAN UNION

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE ACTION**

**SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC  
AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

**SOCIAL INCLUSIVENESS AND EQUALITY**

**DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

**CIVIL PROTECTION**



**ufmsecretariat.org**



Palau de Pedralbes | Pere Duran Farell, 11  
Barcelona, Spain - 08034  
Phone: 00 34 93 521 4100 | Fax: 00 34 93 521 4102