



FEATURED NEWS OF THE UfM

October 2017



UN General Assembly: Enhancing regional cooperation to address the challenges in the Mediterranean

The Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Fathallah Sijilmassi, participated in the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA72), on 18-22 September. The participation of the UfM to UNGA72 fell within the framework of the UfM efforts to enhance regional cooperation in order to address the challenges in the Mediterranean and thereby contribute to the Global Agenda.

UfM urban projects aim to raise the living standards of over 7 million people in the Mediterranean

With one of the fastest urbanisation rates worldwide, the Mediterranean region will need an estimated €60 billion worth of investment in urban infrastructure in the next 20 years. Supported by the active involvement of its 43 Member States, the UfM is committed to implementing a UfM Urban Agenda that ensures urban sustainability, resilience and better quality of life for people in the region.



The maritime sector, an opportunity for development and growth in the Mediterranean

Approximately 90% of the total maritime freight traffic in the Mediterranean is among Northern ports. In stark contrast, the volume of maritime freight traffic between Southern/Eastern and Northern Mediterranean ports accounts for only 7%. With a total value of €520 million, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) supports three labelled projects targeting the maritime transport, trade and logistics sectors.

Discussing new initiatives to advance Euro-Mediterranean cooperation: UfM Senior Officials meet in Barcelona

Gathering for the second UfM Senior Official's Meeting (SOM) of 2017, the representatives of the UfM Member States met in Barcelona to discuss the challenges and opportunities in the the Euro-Mediterranean region and the ongoing projects and initiatives of the UfM Secretariat.



Partners of the UfM-labelled project "Mediterranean New Chance" exchange concrete best practices to improve youth employability in the Mediterranean

Organised by the UfM Secretariat and the OCEMO, the 7th MedNC Steering Committee was held in Barcelona on July 5th to share results and discuss next steps in promoting employability of young jobless people who have dropped out of school.

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UfM, UNDP and UN Women join efforts toward strengthening the role of women and young people in preventing violent extremism in the Mediterranean region

Around 40 experts, academics, practitioners and advocates met in Barcelona to identify key priority actions and approaches towards enhancing the roles of women and youth as key actors in preventing violent extremism in the Euro-Mediterranean region.



Boosting Youth employability in the Mediterranean: UfM takes action to develop international internships opportunities for students

With the goal of helping companies to identify the best young talents and strengthening academic and professional mobility in the region, the 43 countries of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) labelled the project HOMERe. This programme aims at increasing through international traineeships, the employability of students from more than 100 top universities members of the Mediterranean Network of Engineering Schools.

International Youth Day: investing in youth is investing in development and stability

Representing nearly 60% of the total population, young people constitute one of the greatest assets for stability and development in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The new action-oriented Roadmap of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is centred on young people's potential to promote stability and development. Over 15 regional cooperation projects are endorsed by the UfM to empower youth, targeting directly more than 100,000 young men and women in the region.



ZOOM ON A UFM PROJECT



Izmir Urban Integrated Waste Management Project

Waste management is one of the main environmental problems in Turkey's cities, including Izmir, and it is also a key strategic issue with particular relevance at regional level. Izmir's current solid waste landfill facility is reaching its full capacity. The new facility will provide high-quality integrated solid waste management for Izmir at a critical time, and will adopt an exemplary, innovative and environmentally friendly urban infrastructure approach.

The Project as part of the Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI), will provide high-quality integrated solid waste management for Izmir, one of Turkey's major cities, at a critical point as the city's current solid waste landfill facility established in 1992 has only another four years of capacity.

The new facility will adopt an innovative approach to waste management as first of its kind in Turkey, to process waste in a fully-automatic facility in closed spaces and turn it into products that have an economical value such as energy or compost.

AGENDA

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| 18 October 2017 | First UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum. Cairo, Egypt |
| 30-31 October 2017 | UNIMED General Assembly. Paris, France |
| 6-17 November 2017 | Two side-events at the UN climate conference COP23. Bonn, Germany. |
| 9 November 2017 | UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development : First High-Level Conference. Brussels, Belgium |
| 14-15 November 2017 | High level regional Conference "Creativity, Employment and Economic Development in the Southern Mediterranean. Algiers, Algeria |
| 22-24 November 2017 | Medaweeek 2017 Barcelona: "Strength in Diversity, Our Economic Power". Barcelona, Spain |
| 27 November 2017 | UfM Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society. Cairo, Egypt |
| 29-30 November 2017 | UfM Regional Stakeholder Conference on Blue Economy. Naples, Italy |
| 12-13 December 2017 | UfM Energy Platforms annual meeting. Barcelona, Spain |

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Phone: +34 93 521 41 00 e-Mail: communication@ufmsecretariat.org

