



FEATURED NEWS

February-March 2018

"My mandate as Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean comes to an end today. It has been a true honor and privilege to contribute to the development of the activities of the UfM during this crucial phase for the evolution of the region. I leave with the belief, stronger than ever, that strengthening cooperation and integration in the Mediterranean is a strategic priority for the region"

Fathallah Sijilmassi



Promoting early screening for cervical and breast cancer is key to save thousands of women's lives in the region

In the Euro-Mediterranean region, approximately 192,000 women die every year because of cervical and breast cancer. Prevention and early screening are critical to prevent this type of cancer and save thousands of women's lives in the region. The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) partner to promote cervical and breast cancer prevention and early screening through the project "Women's Right to Health (WoRTH)".

The Foreign Ministers of the "5 + 5 Dialogue" welcome the leading role of the Union for the Mediterranean in the region

The Union for the Mediterranean took part in this meeting as a partner of the "5 + 5 Dialogue", and was represented by its Secretary General, Mr Fathallah Sijilmassi. During the conference, "the Ministers welcomed the leading role of the UfM, stressing the importance for the General Secretariat to continue promoting practical and structural projects". The Ministers are committed to advocating an enhanced role for the UfM, in improving governance, increasing political dialogue within it, and in reinforcing the synergies.



The UfM at the Ninth World Urban Forum: Towards Implementing the New Urban Agenda in the Euro-Mediterranean Region

The UfM Secretariat held in Kuala Lumpur the UfM Networking Event: "Towards implementing the New Urban Agenda in the Euro-Mediterranean Region", in the framework of the World Urban Forum (WUF9) in continued efforts to raise awareness about the UfM Urban Agenda (#UfMUrbanAgenda) with a view to ensuring a more sustainable urban future in the Euro-Mediterranean region and beyond.

UfM Conference highlights the key role of the Blue Economy in sustainable development, job creation and investments

With 46,000km coastline and unique marine and fisheries resources, the Mediterranean Sea represents the fifth largest economy in the region. The UfM Regional Stakeholder Conference on the Blue Economy was the occasion to capitalise on this potential in an inclusive manner, bringing together over 400 key stakeholders dealing with marine and maritime issues from the entire region.



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UfM Member States commit to strengthening the role of women in the Euro-Mediterranean region

Ministers from the 43 Member countries of the UfM gathered in Cairo at the 4th UfM Ministerial Conference on "Strengthening the Role of Women in Society". They agreed on a common agenda to strengthen the role of women in the Euro-Mediterranean region. They acknowledged the efforts made by UfM countries to foster gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and stressed the need to address the obstacles that still hinder the full participation of women in the public and private spheres.



A call for action towards a shared Mediterranean Climate Agenda

Keeping the global temperature rise to below 2° C, the target set by the Paris Agreement, calls for a coordinated regional strategy that cannot rely solely on nationally-determined contributions. Climate-resilient infrastructure, and particularly its financing, is fundamental to tackle climate change. In this regard, the UfM Secretariat has commissioned the first regional study on climate finance to provide a clear overview of the funding flows for climate action initiatives in the region.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS



South-South in action UfM-UNOSSC Report



Water Around the Mediterranean



ZOOM ON A UFM PROJECT



MedCoast4BG – Med Coasts for Blue Growth

The overall aim of the MedCoast4BG project is to analyse and promote the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems in coastal areas particularly or potentially devoted to tourism, taking into consideration the overall principles of sustainable development, climate change effects, and governance tools such as Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP).

The conceptual and methodological model elaborated under the EU funded Co-Evolve Interreg Med project concerning mainly EU Mediterranean Coasts, will be further extended to the Southern & Eastern Mediterranean countries involved in the project, taking into account common (at Mediterranean level) but also diverse (at local level) natural, physical and geographic characteristics. This analysis will be complemented by a quantitative evaluation of "tourism sustainability" in selected Pilot Areas on the basis of adequate metrics and tools (e.g. Indicators & Decision Support System).

AGENDA

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| 18-23 March | 8th World Water Forum. Brasilia |
| 20 March | Pledging conference for the Desalination Facility project for the Gaza strip. Brussels |
| 21-22 March | UfM High Level Working Group on Employment and Labour. Brussels |
| 5 April | Joint meeting for the promotion of Women's Right to Health. Marrakesh |
| 11-12 April | Creative Forum. Ljubljana |
| 16-17 April | First task force meeting on Financial Strategy on Water. Brussels |
| 17 April | Launch of Plastic Busters Project. Siena |
| 18 April | Third National Meeting of Second Chance Schools & E20 European Meeting. Bilbao |
| 23 - 25 April | UfM Climate Action Week. Barcelona |

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