

## ***Rencontres - Jobs of the Future 2030***

### Serving the employability of young people in the Mediterranean

Nice, 21-22 October 2022

The Conference is jointly organised by HOMERe (High Opportunity for Mediterranean Executive Recruitment), the Mediterranean Network of Engineering Schools (RMEI), and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

HOMERe is a programme that offers internships between Mediterranean countries targeting students selected at the end of their studies. Bearing in mind that the Mediterranean is a region where youth unemployment often increases with the level of education, these mobility experiences are a unique response to this challenge, as they facilitate the transition from the university environment to skilled positions on the labour market.

HOMERe's vision and methodology, coordinated with RMEI network and supported by the UfM, is a concrete illustration of what works in the Mediterranean and helps to build resilient societies in the face of crises. The challenge of modern and sustainable professions is, more than ever, at the heart of HOMERe's mission, which aims at promoting the employability of young people in our Mediterranean common area.

Therefore, training in sustainable development activities of cities and agriculture, the use of water and other natural resources, carbon-free industries and renewable energies, blue economy and multimodal logistics infrastructures, circular economy, are all examples of jobs of the future for our Mediterranean youth. This youth is counting on our institutions and political leaders, as well as companies, to support it in the new forms of employability generated by entrepreneurship, start-ups, digital networks and artificial intelligence. A first initiative in this direction was the online training on "blue skills necessary for the jobs of the future in the maritime sectors", organized in April 2021 by HOMERe and BlueSkills of the Italian National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics (OGS), two projects labeled by the UfM.

The programme of the *Rencontres* will be dedicated to the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RMEI, Friday 21<sup>st</sup> in the morning and early afternoon, and therefore to the assessment of academic collaboration aimed at developing relevant training programs, but also to an in-depth reflection seminar, led by HOMERe France, on the jobs of the future by 2030, Friday 21<sup>st</sup> in the late afternoon and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> all day.

With the support of the Union for the Mediterranean, and its Mediterranean Initiative for Employment Med4Jobs, as well as the French official bodies that have accompanied HOMERe since its creation, the seminar will propose a reflection around the following axes:

- What are the jobs of the future for the Mediterranean youth?

- What new or profoundly modified activities will appear with the technological, environmental, economic and demographic transitions?
- What new ways of working will emerge and develop?
- How to support the employability of the Mediterranean youth on the path of a sustainable future?
- How to train and secure the future of this youth "in" the Mediterranean basin and "at the service" of a sustainable future?

The **opening round table**, on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> afternoon, will be animated by the presence of high-level personalities from the Mediterranean area, symbols of the importance of the challenges and the common will to transform them into successes of peace and solidarity development between countries and partners of a future where youth has a central place. This official opening will take place through a high-level round table, where four complementary perspectives will intersect:

- The "**political**" **vision** of a Mediterranean in search of union, peace and future for its youth and its sustainable jobs; for this, we count with the Senior Advisor for Higher Education, Research, and Innovation of the Union for the Mediterranean in charge, Ms. Itaf Ben Abdallah.
- The "**international economic**" **vision** of strategic needs, sustainable and balanced recovery between public and private actors around the Mediterranean; Mr. Alain Bentejac, President of the French National Committee of Foreign Trade Advisors (CNCCEF) agreed to intervene.
- The **vision of "companies"**, with their development projects, "relocations", competitive and eco-responsible modernity ; Mrs. Jihen Boutiba, Secretary General of BUSINESSMED (Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises) agreed to bring us this vision.
- The **vision of "training, academic and professional organizations"** in the face of new know-how to teach and connect to the world of employment; with the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research team, as well as with the Representative of RMEI (Mediterranean Network of Engineering and Management Schools).

The **Gala Dinner** that will follow, will allow to continue the exchanges in a personal and warm way between the participants.

On Saturday 22 October in the morning, a round table will **bring together academics and business leaders** to share on the main challenges to be met to develop at the service of the Mediterranean area, training for the "jobs of the future". This round table will be followed by **workshops in small groups** to discuss the challenges that will have emerged from the opening conference of the previous day and the morning round table: these small groups will identify three recommendations or key questions to be raised in the **plenary session**. A collective commitment to foster modern and sustainable employability of young people in the Mediterranean will then be formulated.

*Ministers recognise the role that skills, initial vocation training as well as lifelong learning - play to boost employability, inclusiveness, competitiveness, and growth, to address better the challenges of green transition, technological change, and digitalization of the economy in the region, as well as to address the prominent and persistent issue of skills gaps and mismatches in the region*

Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean Ministers responsible for Employment and Labour, 18 May 2022, Marrakech

*"In the Euro-Mediterranean region, climate and environmental emergencies, combined with the socio-economic impacts of Covid-19, have once again confirmed that the systems on which we depend are increasingly vulnerable. They highlight inequalities of all kinds, including the critical need to create inclusive societies that enable young people to realize their potential as agents of change and contributors to the economy of the region as a whole. New concepts, business models and public strategies to help with a paradigm shift already exist and are just waiting to be strengthened. »*

Nasser Kamel, UfM Secretary General, for the 25th anniversary of the RMEI

## AGENDA

### Friday, 21 October

- 09.00 to 10.00 – Welcome of participants, with refreshments, coffee, and pastries
- 10.00 to 12.00 – **25th anniversary of the RMEI** – First series of testimonies from personalities who contributed to the creation of the RMEI university network, in different countries around the Mediterranean. Interactions with the room.
- 12.00 to 13.00 – Buffet lunch on site
- 13.00 to 16.00 – **25th anniversary of the RMEI** – Second series of testimonials on the development of the RMEI network, in different professional branches and countries, all around the Mediterranean. Presentation of the RMEI "White Paper", with articles by personalities retracing the "success of 25 years". Interactions with the room.
- 16.00 to 16.30 – Networking break
- 16.30 to 19.00 – **HOMERe and the Jobs of the Future 2030** – Opening Conference: HOMERe in the framework of the **Mediterranean Initiative for Employment Med4Jobs of the Union for the Mediterranean**. What are the jobs of the future for the Mediterranean youth? What new or profoundly modified activities in the face of technological, environmental, economic and demographic transitions? What new ways of working will emerge and develop? How to support the employability of Mediterranean youth on these trajectories of sustainable future?
- 20.00 – Gala dinner – Location to be defined

### Saturday, 22 October

- 9.00m to 10.00 – Welcome of participants, with refreshments, coffee and pastries
- 10.00 to 12.00 - **HOMERe and the Jobs of the Future 2030** – Round Table bringing together representatives from several countries, academics, and business leaders, to share on the main challenges on the development of training for the "jobs of the future". Interactions with the room.

- 12.00 to 13.00 – Buffet lunch on site
- 13.00 to 14.30 - **HOMERe and the Jobs of the Future 2030** – Workshops, in groups of 5 to 10 people, to discuss the challenges that emerged from the "Opening Conference" of the previous day and the "Round Table" of the morning. Each group will identify 3 recommendations or key issues to be raised in the wrap-up plenary.
- 14.30 to 15.00 – Break and collection of questions by the organizers– recommendations of the working groups.
- 15.00 to 16.30 – Final plenary with presentation of the results of the working groups. Conclusions of the symposium **HOMERe and the Jobs of the Future 2030**, with a "declaration of collective commitment" to continue this action for modern and sustainable employability of young people in the Mediterranean. Prospective vision of the "next steps", especially during COP 27 in November in Egypt!
- 17.00 – End of the HOMERe-RMEI-UfM Conference