

SECRETARIAT OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2019



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INTRODUCTION

The Union for the Mediterranean (hereafter referred to as UfM) is the intergovernmental Euro-Mediterranean organization gathering, on equal footing and representation, all 28 countries of the European Union and the 15 countries of the South and the East of the Mediterranean. As a direct continuation of the Barcelona Process, the launch of the UfM in July 2008 was a true reflection of the shared political commitment of its 43 Member States to strengthen regional cooperation, dialogue and integration in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

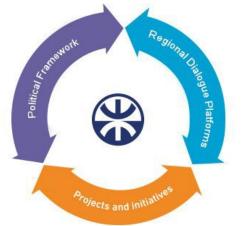
Mandate: creating an area of peace, stability and shared prosperity in the Euro-Mediterranean

The UfM Secretariat (hereafter referred to as UfMS), first permanent structure dedicated to the enhancement of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, was established in March 2010 in Barcelona. Ever since its creation, the institution has been continuously working to effectively achieve, driven by the principles of co ownership and shared responsibility, the goal of creating an area of peace, security, stability and shared prosperity that addresses the legitimate aspirations of the Euro-Mediterranean citizens.

Methodology: putting policies in action

Beyond its model of governance based on the principle of consensus, the added value of the UfM also relies on its unique action-driven methodology. Composed of three dimensions, this methodology aims at creating effective interlinks between decisions taken by Member States at political level and their operational translation into region-wide cooperation projects, which in return nourish the definition of relevant policies.

1. *Political Fora*: A Political dimension that defines the UfM priorities of work through the adoption of common agendas in key strategic areas for the region.



2. *Platforms of dialogue:* A structured policy dialogue dimension involving, through an inclusive multi-stakeholder approach, governmental institutions, regional and international organisations, local authorities, civil society organisations, universities and think tanks, as well as the private sector and financial institutions.

3. *Projects with regional impact*: A concrete dimension that enhances partnerships and interactions on the ground between international project promoters, partners and beneficiaries.

Through the UfM label, the UfMS acts as a catalyst of projects, accompanying promoters throughout the project lifecycle.

Through this innovative methodology, the UfMS has witnessed a steady increase in its number of activities and partnerships, with tangible positive results on the ground that have given new momentum to Euro-Mediterranean regional cooperation.

A new Roadmap for Action: tackling the root causes of the challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean region



The last few years have marked a turning point for the institution, both at a political and operational level. Indeed, at the occasion of the II UfM Regional Forum in January 2017, the UfM Ministers of Foreign Affairs gave a strong political impulse to the institution with the adoption of a new Roadmap for Action, entitled "The Union for the Mediterranean: an action-driven organisation with a common ambition".

The new Roadmap underlines the key role of the UfM as a unique framework for political dialogue and regional cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean area, and sets it to work towards the socio-economic root causes of the growing challenges that the region is facing, while capitalizing on its immense untapped potential, particularly its youth.

During the III UfM Regional Forum, held on 8 October 2018 in Barcelona on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the organisation, Ministers positively assessed the first elements of the implementation of the Roadmap and renewed their commitment for regional cooperation and prosperity.

2019 Work Programme: objectives and areas of action

Keeping up with this momentum, the UfMS is determined to continue developing a wide-reaching regional cooperation in the Mediterranean through a strategic three-year vision 2018-2020 that contributes to the achievement of an inclusive and sustainable development, and ultimately of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), throughout the region.

In this framework, the UfMS will implement its 2019 Work Programme in coherence with the 2017 Roadmap, the policy guidelines validated by UfM Member States during Ministerial and Senior Officials meetings as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

More specifically, the UfMS will step up its activities and amplify their impact in the four areas of action identified by the 2017 Roadmap:

- Enhancing political dialogue amongst the Member States on key issues of the region: The UfMS will deepen and expand this dialogue to improve the effectiveness of its operational activities. Accordingly, and as mandated by the conclusions of the UfM Co-Presidency following the III Regional Forum, the UfMS will organize a fourth edition of the UfM Regional Forum in the same format as the previous ones.
- 2. Ensuring the contribution of UfM activities to regional stability and human development: Placing the people and their demands at the centre of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, the UfMS will address the root causes of challenges such as migration, violent extremism and terrorism by promoting economic growth and social cohesion with particular attention to business development, employment, higher education, research and innovation, women and youth empowerment. In addition, activities on economic cooperation, trade and investment, with a strong involvement of the private sector, will be promoted.
- 3. **Strengthening regional integration**: With the aim of enhancing connectivity and cohesion in the Euro-Mediterranean region, the UfMS will continue to promote a strong regional agenda on sustainable development. The UfMS will reinforce its activities on infrastructure transport networks, sustainable urban development, energy connectivity and sustainable energy supply and will foster regional

cooperation in the fields of environment, water and blue economy, relying on the climate action agenda as a driver for innovation, job creation and green growth.

4. **Strengthening UfM capacity for action**: In response to the rapid growth of its activities, the UfMS will continue to consolidate its capacity through impact focused actions by developing regional and global partnerships to leverage joint efforts and effective interaction between regional cooperation actors. On the same line, the internal capacities of the Secretariat will be further enhanced and amplified.



FIRST PART: UfM CONTRIBUTION TO STABILITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION



1.1. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Promoting trade and investments

Strategic objectives 2018-2020

The Euro-Mediterranean region has one of the lowest levels of regional integration in the world. Indeed, a study commissioned by UfMS has indeed shown that, out of all trade flows occurring in the UfM region, 90 per cent are within the European Union, 9 per cent between the North and the South, and only 1 per cent among southern and eastern Mediterranean countries themselves. Although many ongoing initiatives across the region, such as negotiations on deep and comprehensive Free Trade agreements, have brought positive effects on the level of regional integration, progress remains insufficient.

In this sense, the 2017 UfM Roadmap, in its chapter 3, and the UfM Ministerial Meetings on Industrial Cooperation (Brussels, 2014) and on Trade (Brussels, 2017) called for promoting a stronger contribution of the private sector to regional integration efforts. Building upon this mandate, the UfM strategic objective is to enhance trade and investments in order to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, while contributing to human development efforts in the region with a special focus on impact sustainability, socio-economic inclusion, and youth and women empowerment.

At the operational level, the UfM Secretariat activities address the following strategic targets:

- the formation of sustainable, regular and dynamic regional platforms of dialogue, using the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices as means to promote the best replicable examples of policy reforms and business modalities in the region.
 In these platforms, a multi-stakeholder approach will enable to give stronger ownership to private sector representatives, as mandated by the UfM Roadmap, by notably establishing reinforced partnerships between main players in the economic ecosystem: governments, private sector, active regional agencies and international organizations, in addition to
- In parallel, the UfM Secretariat will proceed with labelling new, meaningful projects and will continue to support labelled regional initiatives and projects delivering tangible and sustainable results, as well as contributing to the monitoring of their impact.

UfM Secretariat in the area of Business Development will notably contribute to the implementation of SDGs 1, 8, 10 and 17, and more particularly SDG 9: *building resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.* Questions related to gender equality and women empowerment (SDG 5), and environment and climate action (SDG 13) will be mainstreamed throughout the UfMS action in this priority area.

2019 Specific objectives

financial institutions.

During 2019, the UfM Secretariat will work with relevant partners and stakeholders on the implementation of recommendations and endorsed work programs to build momentum for



materializing the strategy for private sector development, advancing industrial cooperation, trade and investments in the region.

In light of the the Co-Presidency's and the Member States' support, the Euro-Med **Industrial Cooperation** and of the **Euro-Med Trade Cooperation** processes have been brought into the UfM format ('UfMisation' of the Euro-Med process), starting by building the consensus on integrated work programs in both fields under the UfM framework.

Ministerial meetings on industrial cooperation and/or trade are expected to be held during the 2019-2020 period, as anticipated by Ministerial declarations and the SOM decisions. Each Ministerial meeting will be preceded and prepared by at least one Ad-Hoc SOM.

More particularly, guided by the UfM **Private Sector Strategy** and building on the concept of the **UfM Business Forum** introduced in 2018 during the UNOSSC Fourth Regional Networking Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, the UfMS will work towards the foundation of a **UfM Business Platform** that will meet on a regular basis to promote engagement of the private sector, trans-border corporates, trade and business associations, local financial actors (banks, equity funds, impact funds, etc.), as well as IFIs and relevant development agencies. As they represent the primary source of employment and job opportunities, **development and support networks for MSMEs** will remain the core target of the work and activities of the Business Platform, to express private sector views on the promotion, with our Member States, of sound and inductive business environment and policy reforms that would allow increased foreign and national investments, access to finance and information, fostered innovation, synergies and consolidated business networks that are pivotal for economic diversification and inclusiveness.

i. <u>Promoting Regional Dialogue</u>

• Industrial Cooperation

The UfM Secretariat will work closely with the Co-Presidency / DG GROW in the preparation of the UfM Ministerial Meeting on industrial cooperation, foreseen in principle in 2019. Ministers of Industry, at their next Ministerial Meeting, will set priorities in particular for SMEs development and increasing job creation, key elements for Euro-Mediterranean economic growth and the fight against unemployment.

Following the first UfM expert meeting on industrial cooperation and SME development end 2017, a work programme was approved for the period 2018-2020 focused on four priority axes, namely: (i) improving the business climate and access to finance policies, (ii) internationalisation of SMEs and clusters cooperation, (iii) establishing a Pan-Euro-Mediterranean market for industrial products, and (iv) job creation and social economy.

In 2019, two meetings of the UfM Experts Technical Group on Industrial Cooperation and SME Development will be held in order to follow up on the implementation of the work programme.



The UfM Secretariat will also organize a Workshop on North Africa Industrialization in collaboration with IPEMED in 2019, with the purpose of promoting the potential industrialization of Southern Mediterranean countries, from Morocco to Egypt, by creating a consortium of Northern and Southern actors (administrations, institutions, companies, etc.) to analyze the current trends that contribute to economic integration and to convince public decision-makers and private operators of the necessity to take action, while ensuring dialogue with the Civil Society and the Social Partners.

• Trade and investment Cooperation

The 10th UfM Ministerial Conference on Trade that was held in Brussels on 19 March 2018 welcomed the support provided by the European Commission in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Trade and Investment Facilitation Mechanism initiative (TIFM) and called on the UfM Secretariat to contribute to the consolidation of the TIFM in Member states. It also stressed the role of the Secretariat in developing additional concrete initiatives to reinforce the regional economic integration and the cooperation within the UfM business community. Building on the recommendations by the Ministers, work will focus on issues such as Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) according to the Action Plan on Euro-Mediterranean Co-operation on the fight against piracy and counterfeiting, and sectoral cooperation.

The Ministers recognised the need for regular meetings among themselves and agreed to reconvene in 2019 to review progress on the development of the UfM Trade Agenda.

The UfM Secretariat will work closely with the Co-Presidency / DG TRADE in the preparation of the UfM Ministerial Conference on Trade foreseen for December 2019. Two UfM Trade Senior Officials Meetings are envisaged in preparation of the Ministerial. Additional meetings may take place, such as launching regional work on Sanitary and Phytosanitary cooperation, and to hand over the management of the Trade and Investment Facilitation Mechanism (TIFM) to the National Focal Points of the Member states.

Social Economy

The Secretariat has three main lines of action towards embracing Social Economy and supporting Social Enterprises and Entrepreneurs in the region. :

- First: Facilitating and enhancing regional policy dialogue among relevant actors through a series of meetings and conferences, starting in 2019 with a Workshop on Social Economy in the MENA Region, with a view to contributing to the creation of a favourable and conducive business environment for Social Entrepreneurs. This Workshop intends to kick-start a more structured UfM dialogue on Social Economy;
- Second: Potential labelling of meaningful Social Economy projects (under the umbrella of Med4Jobs) that contribute directly to social inclusion and job creation, creating jobs for youth and women and alleviating poverty in rural areas and for marginalized communities;



Third: As part of the UfM work programme on Industrial Cooperation and SME Development (in particular priority (iv) job creation and social economy), collaborate with the main interlocutors already active in the field on both shores of the Mediterranean, including the European Commission, and bring in other potential actors through the UfM Secretariat's pragmatic multi-stakeholders approach.

• Regional strategic dialogue for private sector development

Following the UfM Secretariat Private Sector Strategy aiming to reinforce the role of the private sector in the region's socio-economic growth and integration, the Secretariat will further enhance its activities in the following directions with a focus on youth and women and, in particular, establish a UfM Business Platform that would gather the community of private sector representatives already in interaction with the UfM Secretariat or willing to participate in the dynamic.

Within this framework, a certain number of activities will be developed in 2019:

- Over the period of 2019-2020, the UfM Secretariat will organize the kick-off meeting for the **UfM Private 10 B2B Platform**, aimed at bringing together the major business and private sector associations from ten Euro-Mediterranean countries at a first stage.
- The UfM Secretariat will co-organize the **Business Forum** that will take place in Egypt in 2019 with the purpose of promoting business development in the region and integrating gender-related issues into the ongoing efforts under this area.
- Given its relevance to the UfM Business Development and Employment Agenda, a brainstorming group meeting will be dedicated to Informal Business Integration in 2019, with a focus on women and youth employment.
- The UfM Secretariat will actively engage in the coming **Regional Networking Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation** of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation - UNOSSC.
- Building on its partnership with the Associations of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry - ASCAME, the UfM Secretariat will continue to support the MedaWeek Barcelona in its 13th edition to be held in 2019, ensuring an active participation in the panel discussions.
- The Secretariat will place more emphasis on Cultural and Creative Industries and Clusters, and will support creativity and innovation as key drives for economic development. In this respect, it will partner with key players to organize a **forum on cultural and creative industries** with a focus on **circular economy initiatives and the integration of renewable energies and climate action solutions**. It will also continue to actively support the **Ljubljana Creative Forum** initiative.



The outcomes of all these activities will contribute to the agendas of the next possible Ministerial meetings on industrial cooperation, trade and digital economy.

ii. Promoting Regional Projects and Initiatives

a. Monitoring of labelled projects/initiatives

The UfM Secretariat will maintain its engagement with the promoters, partners and beneficiaries of labelled projects, through the monitoring of the progress and impact of each project and the systematic review of implementation. The revised labelling process will streamline the project evaluation and adoption and will guide the UfMS compass in assessing new project proposals.

Under the Business Development dimension, the following projects are labelled:

- 1. Med4Jobs Réseau Entreprendre
- **2.** Med4Jobs Establishment of a Regional Platform for the Development of Culture and Creative Industries and Clusters in the Southern Mediterranean Countries
- 3. Fostering SME competitiveness and trade amongst the Agadir Agreement countries
- 4. Economic Development through Inclusive and Local Empowerment (EDILE)
- 5. Euromed Invest Promotion & Observatory (EMIPO)
- **6.** Organization and Coordination of the SIEMed Network: Support for Entrepreneurship Initiatives in the Mediterranean

In line with the UfM Roadmap call for intensifying partnerships and synergies, a **UfM Project Promoters Conference** will be held in 2019 to bring together all the promoters of the labelled projects under the Business development area in order to take stock of the achievements and the state-of-play, as well as to discuss major challenges and envisaged future steps.

The UfMS will follow up with UNIDO on the project 'Establishment of a Regional Platform for the **Development of Culture and Creative Industries and Clusters in the Southern Mediterranean Countries'** and the UfM Secretariat's potential engagement following the success of Phase I to promote the concept with UfM partner countries. The European Commission had supported phase 1 and already extended the pilot phase following the High-Level Conference "Creativity, Employment and Economic Development in the Southern Mediterranean" held in Algiers, Algeria on 14-15 November 2018. In 2019, a conference would be held to promote and give new momentum to the project 'Fostering SME competitiveness and trade amongst the Agadir Agreement countries'.

b. <u>Other Initiatives</u>

Under the umbrella of the UfM Business Platform, specific activities will be undertaken:

• Launching the 5-yearly Progress Report on Regional Integration



The UfM Roadmap mandated the UfM Secretariat to launch a study with specific performance indicators which would allow for analysis of major trends and evolutions. These indicators, once approved by the SOM, would serve as the base for a progress report on regional integration to be conducted every 5 years. The study on specific performance indicators was concluded in 2018, and once approved by the SOM, the tender for the progress report would be prepared and launched in 2019.

• The MENA-OECD Business Advisory Board (BAB)

Following its active participation in the Launch of the MENA-OECD Business Advisory Board (BAB) on 20-21 September 2018 which aims to promote inclusive public-private dialogue, the UfM Secretariat will liaise with MENA-OECD on the potential collaboration and the role that the Secretariat can play toward enhancing private-public dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region and within the framework of the newly launched Business Advisory Board.

• Launching a Study on Trade Barriers

Given the weight that the Member States give to Trade and the new impetus given to trade discussion following the 2018 UfM Ministerial Conference on Trade, a technical study will be launched in 2019 to identify and analyse the main barriers to trade as a major impediment to a more consolidated regional economic integration, as well as the potential of regional value chains and e-commerce. The outcomes of this study will be discussed in a multi-stakeholder dialogue held in Barcelona and the follow-up activities identified in the dialogue will be supported by GIZ, in the framework of the cooperation partnership between the UfMS and GIZ.



1.2. EMPLOYMENT: Fostering job creation and inclusive growth

Strategic objectives 2018-2020

Job creation is a pressing priority in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Indeed, UfM countries have among the highest unemployment rates in the world, affecting mostly youth and women. Full and productive employment and decent work for all have thus acquired a central place in policy-making in the region, being understood as indispensable and critical for economic growth, social cohesion and poverty eradication.

In response to the incoming 4th Ministerial Meeting on Employment and Labour to take place in April 2019, the UfM Secretariat will take the necessary steps to give a proper follow-up to its recommendations, including appropriate resources.

More particularly, the UfMS is working on developing its **UfM Med4Jobs initiative**, **a** project-based and cross-sector umbrella initiative launched in 2013, in view of promoting and replicating successful job creation practices in the areas of employability, job intermediation services and business coaching, as well as of fostering regional dialogue on Active Labor Market Policies.

After the celebration of the First **UfM Med4Jobs Stakeholders' Dialogue** in 2018, the Secretariat will hold this Dialogue on a regular biannual basis, bringing together all promoters, beneficiaries, active players and partners of all UfM-labelled and supported projects under the initiative every two years to take stock of the progress and evaluate the impact of those projects on the ground, and provide the opportunity of networking and business matchmaking B2B with development agencies, organizations and IFIs as well as all other stakeholders concerned.

Following-up on the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Digital Economy (Brussels, 2014), the UfM Secretariat is also paving the way for a strengthened digital economy in the Euro-Mediterranean region, in view of unleashing the potential of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as a driving force for job creation and inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the entire Mediterranean region.

Furthermore, the UfMS aims at mainstreaming employment and decent work related objectives in all relevant UfM policies and cooperation initiatives, in particular in areas such as the blue economy, digital economy, education, energy, environment and climate change, women empowerment, industrial cooperation and research and innovation.

The activities of the UfMS in the area of Employment will contribute to the implementation of SDG 8: *Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.* Furthermore, questions related to gender equality and women empowerment (SDG 5), reducing inequalities in the region (SDG 10) and environment and climate action (SDG 13) will be mainstreamed throughout this priority area.



2019 specific objectives

During 2019, the UfM Secretariat will work with relevant partners and stakeholders on the implementation of recommendations and endorsed work programs in the field of Employment. More specifically, in line with its three-fold methodology of action, the UfMS will:

- Work closely with the Co-Presidency / DG EMPL in the preparation of the UfM Ministerial Meeting on Employment and Labour, scheduled to be held in April 2019 in Portugal.
- Reinforce regional dialogue on Employment by consolidating and expanding the works of its "High-Level Working Group on Employment and Labour", "Digital Economy and Internet Access Expert Working Group", as well as other relevant UfM regional platforms tackling the issues of employment and employability. The UfMS will also join regional efforts in these fields through the reinforcement of its strategic partnerships with key Euro-Mediterranean stakeholders.
- Further consolidate the UfM Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4Jobs) as a pipeline of projects for generating jobs and improving employability prospects., as well as for promoting an enabling environment for Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in areas such as incubators and coaching programmes.. Ministers specifically called the UfM Secretariat to continue promoting projects further in line with employment, employability and decent work priorities and to enhance, in cooperation with relevant actors, visibility, ownership and access to finance.

i. <u>Promoting Regional Dialogue</u>

• Employment and Job Creation

In 2018, the preparatory work for the **2019 UfM Ministerial Conference on Employment and Labour** was done through the High-Level Working Group on Employment and Labour.

The HLWG kicked off the preparation for the next UfM Ministerial Conference at its meeting in March 2018, where the participants agreed on the broad outline of the event (format, date, place). The participants also gathered ideas for the policy conference, and identified elements for the Ministerial Declaration and made proposals for implementable actions as a follow-up to the conference.

Building on this preliminary work done, the HLWG continued work at tis 8th meeting in Brussels on 23-24 October 2018 with a view to advancing as much as possible on the preparation of the 2019 Ministerial Conference, scheduled in April 2019.

In parallel to this process, the UfM Secretariat will join efforts in 2019 with other active players in the field of employment and job creation, such as the OECD, ETF and ILO among others, to organize a workshop dedicated to discussing '**The Future of Work'** in the Euro-Mediterranean region, with an emphasis on Blue Economy and the integrated water-energy nexus. In addition, and in liaison with the Higher Education, Research and Innovation division at the UfMS, and in partnership with the Euro-Mediterranean University in Slovenia (EMUNI), the second edition of the workshop on **Skills Development for Better Employability** will be organised.



Building on the success of the First UfM Med4Jobs Stakeholders' Dialogue, the UfM Secretariat will start preparing the **Second UfM Med4Jobs Stakeholders' Dialogue** planned in 2020 and will continue to hold this event every two year. The **Med4Jobs Advisory Board** will be conducted annually, with the next (Sixth) Meeting taking place in 2019. The Secretariat will also consider the best approach to build a **Med4Jobs Beneficiaries' Platform** to encourage the transfer of knowledge and the exchange of success stories, best practices, and market data amongst the beneficiaries on a permanent basis.

• Advancing Digital Economy in the region

In the wake of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the profusion of new technologies at the workplace, digital skills have become of paramount importance given the inevitable IT component in most of the future jobs and the mainstreaming of digitalization across almost all the economic sectors. The employment potential presented by the digital transformation is huge, and this is one of the motives for moving digital economy from the Business Development pillar to the Employment pillar. In parallel, Digital Economy has a clear relevance to the Business Development pillar, which calls for a holistic approach to fully unleash the potential of this sector.

During 2019, and in close coordination with the UfM Co-Presidency, the UfM Secretariat will work on organizing the **Third Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Digital Economy and Internet Access Expert Working Group (DEWoG)**, which has not been held for several years. The UfMS will benefit from the experience of several countries in the field to hold a **Conference on the Digital Skills for the Future**.

ii. <u>Promoting Regional Projects and Initiatives</u>

a. Monitoring of labelled projects/initiatives

The following projects, already labelled, will continue to be closely monitored and supported throughout their project life cycle to ensure tangible impact and sustainability:

- **1.** Med4Jobs Generation Entrepreneur
- 2. Med4Jobs Maharat–Med
- **3.** Med4Jobs "YouMatch- toolbox", Global Initiative for Innovative Employment Services for Youth
- 4. The labelled project "YouMatch- Toolbox", Global Initiative for Innovative Employment Services for Youth, is entering its second phase. Phase II of the project would still focus on Employment Services and on developing communities of practice, in close cooperation with the UfM Secretariat.
- b. Pipeline of projects

South-South – UfM Campus Program for Jordan Enhancing access of young refugees and migrants to the Technical Vocational Education (TVET)

Building on the partnerships between the UfM and UNOSSC and other development partners, and in an effort to increase the potential of the Syrian refugees and local communities of the host countries in accessing decent jobs, developing the vocational educational system and facilitating social integrity in the countries affected by the crisis, the UfMS is developing an initiative with UNOSSC that is still in the phase of elaboration. Initial discussions were held with the concerned Jordanian partners and follow-up work was done in 2018 to further define the project. Coherence with other initiatives will be explored and consultations will be held before entering the project in the UfM pipeline.

c. Other initiatives

• Launching of a Study on Youth Employment

A technical study will be launched in 2019 to identify and analyse the challenges and opportunities for youth employment in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The outcomes of this study will be discussed in a multi-stakeholder dialogue held in Barcelona and the follow-up activities identified in the dialogue will be supported by GIZ, in the framework of the cooperation partnership between the UfMS and GIZ.

 Within the limits of available resources and in line with the revision of the UfM labelling, the UfMS will launch a process to improve the monitoring of UfM labelled projects and initiatives and other UfM supported projects, against impact indicators in the field of employment and job creation. A particular focus will be given to the impact that national policies have in this process.

iii. Strategic Partnerships

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Secretariat of the UfM signed a Joint Declaration on 5 October 2017 in Berlin to express their intention to enter into a Partnership, with the aim of facilitating regional integration, supporting the creation of a wide range of **employment** opportunities, in particular for young women and men, and boosting **trade** within the region and beyond.

To achieve these goals, the BMZ is supporting the UfM Secretariat with an advisory project for the years 2018-2021 to promote regional exchanges on employment and trade among private-sector, civil-society and government actors in the Union for the Mediterranean. The planned personnel provided by GIZ would comprise:

- > 1 project leader and international long-term expert on international trade (Barcelona)
- 1 national long-term expert to provide technical and logistical assistance for the project locally (Barcelona)
- > 1 Part-time financial expert
- Short-term experts
- 1 international long-term expert on employment (Barcelona)



In addition to GIZ, the BDE Division will continue to strengthen its partnerships with UNOSSC, ASCAME, IEMed, ETF, ILO, OECD, IESMED, IPEMED and other relevant actors in the field.



1.3. HIGHER EDUCATION: Improving youth employability and academic mobility

Strategic objectives 2018-2020

The UfM region counts over 30 million university students, and by 2030, gross enrolment rates in higher education are foreseen to rise up to 40%. The "youth bulge" in the region is changing dramatically its educational outlook, yet efforts are still not matching the ambition of numerous young Mediterranean people, despite that the current generation remains the most educated ever in the Southern Mediterranean.

One of the reasons for such levels of unemployment for youth and in particular for university graduates is a persistent gap between the skills acquired in the education system and the requirements of business. Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training (VET) are therefore key priorities in the Mediterranean region, hence in the UfM agenda.

Being **cross-cutting issues**, regional cooperation efforts in these fields play also an essential role in achieving UfM overall objectives related to human development, intercultural and inter-faith dialogue, prevention of extremism and terrorism, migration, sustainable development and the promotion of a Mediterranean youth positive agenda in line with the UfM Roadmap for Action.

The UfM agenda for 2018-2020 in the field of Higher Education is based on and linked to the **Mediterranean policy frameworks** in place:

- The UfM Roadmap for Action;
- Ministerial Declarations: on Research & Innovation (Valletta, 3-4 March 2017); on Employment and Labour (Dead Sea, 27 September 2016); towards a Euro-Mediterranean Higher Education and Research area (Cairo, 18 June 2007).

On this basis, the UfM Secretariat will strive to reach by 2020 the following strategic objectives:

• In the field of Higher Education:

- Advancing the **Mediterranean mobility agenda** which includes addressing common challenges affecting its progress;
- Supporting efforts to prepare students for the changing nature of work, enhance their employability and improve transitions to employment;
- Fostering the development and scaling-up of accredited Euro-Mediterranean curricula and academic programmes involving partner HE institutions from several UfM countries;
- Enhancing the consolidation of **Euro-Mediterranean academic consortia, networks and communities** from rector to teacher and international relations manager levels;
- Facilitating Higher Education to migrants, refugees and displaced persons.
- Supporting all initiatives in favour of **Education on Sustainable Development** in the Mediterranean.
- In the field of Vocational Education and Training



- Bringing forward concrete answers to the challenge of NEETs;
- **Structuring regional cooperation** in the field in view notably of promoting and improving the quality, attractiveness and relevance of VET.

To support the implementation of these strategic objectives over the medium term, the UfM Secretariat will, as general guidelines of work: ensure translation of relevant **Ministerial commitments** into concrete actions, consolidate participative **dialogue mechanisms** to further facilitate regional synergies and cooperation among UfM Member States and stakeholders to collaborate on joint actions in these areas; set up new **strategic partnerships** while strengthening those that already exist (i.e. CIHEAM, , European Training Foundation (ETF), UNESCO, UNIMED); assist promoters in **scaling up the impact** of their UfM labelled projects (in particular by encompassing the enlargement to other countries, the implication of additional partners and the increase of targeted beneficiaries) and in **developing new regional projects**.

The activities of the UfM Secretariat for 2018-2020 in the area of Higher Education aim to contribute particularly to the implementation of SDG 4: *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all* and SDG 8.6: *Reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (NEETs).* Furthermore, questions related to gender equality and women empowerment (SDG 5), reducing inequalities in the region (SDG 10) and environment and climate action (SDG 13) will be mainstreamed throughout the UfMS action in this priority area.

2019 specific objectives

Within the framework of 2018-2020 strategic orientations for higher education and research, the UfM will focus its efforts on the following key objectives in 2019:

- Fostering higher education Mediterranean internationalization including through academic mobility (contribution to SDG4 and SDG10)
- Structuring regional dialogue in the field of human capital development with respect to the common challenges posed to education by the changing nature of work and the future of skills: 'future-readiness' of curricula; successful school-to-work transitions; development of VET and exposure to the workplace; life-long learning; quality of teaching and learning , training the trainers (contribution to SDG4 and SDG8)

i. <u>Promoting Regional Dialogue</u>

> Higher Education internationalization and academic mobility

The regional platform of policy dialogue on "higher education internationalization and academic mobility in the Euro-Mediterranean area", initiated by the UfM Secretariat in December 2016 to foster knowledge exchange and explore new paths of regional cooperation between Member States and stakeholders in the sector, will be reinvigorated to lay the basis for a more result-oriented approach while capitalizing on past achievements. The platform gathers representatives from the UfM Co-Presidency, UfM Member States, international organizations and civil society organizations (student and university networks, NGOs). The UfM Secretariat will convene one meeting mid October 2019 (tbc), where possible in close cooperation with a Southern



Mediterranean Member State. Particular attention will be paid to the gender dimension of internationalization (i.e. common challenges affecting female students and staff and ways to address them). It is foreseen that the International Association of Universities (IAU) will present during this meeting the key findings for the Mediterranean region of its 5th Global Survey on Internationalization of Higher Education.

Expected outcomes for 2019, within the limits of available resources:

- Endorsement and publication of a UfM study on the situation of academic mobility in the region.
- Adoption of an operational action plan of the platform.
- Launching of correlated action-oriented thematic working groups.

The UfM Secretariat will consider new ways to articulate this policy dialogue process with tangible actions on the ground, among others through:

- Back-to-back with the platform meeting: a 2-day capacity-building and networking seminar, targeting primarily staff from international relations offices of higher education institutions from the region, to be organized by the UfM Secretariat with relevant partners provided the appropriate financial resources are available and secured as well as possibly one related side-event organized by a UfM relevant partner

- Partnership building with the UNESCO related to the revision process of the Arab Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Diplomas and certificates underway and the future establishment of the Arab Network for the National Information Centers (ARIC).

- Closer interactions and synergies with UfM labelled projects such as the Euro-Med University of Fès.

- Cross-fertilization with activities conducted under the framework of the 5+5 Dialogue on Higher Education, Research and Innovation on issues of concern to all UfM countries.

- Communication activities related to the ErasmusDays (scheduled for 10-12 October 2019) aimed at specifically encouraging higher education institutions and stakeholders from UfM countries to promote their Mediterranean North-South and South-South academic cooperation.

As in the past, the UfM Secretariat will endeavor to ensure a proper linkage between this policy dialogue process and UfM participation in the global policy dialogue conducted by the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) with partner regions and international organizations in the perspective of the 2020 EHEA Ministerial Conference.

> Human capital development – Preparing youth for 21st century skills

The UfM Secretariat will take forward and develop the preliminary consultations initiated with potential partners – the European Commission, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Training Foundation (ETF), Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED), OECD, UNESCO - to establish a structured regional policy dialogue process on the nexus between education, higher education, vocational education and training (VET) employability and employment with respect to the future of skills in the region. As a first step the UfM Secretariat shall assess the relevance, viability and sustainability of such a process prior to working on



establishing the appropriate financial partnership required to ensure its establishment and development.

Sectoral Dialogue 5+5

As in the past, the UfM Secretariat will take part in the expert meetings of the Group of Senior Officials of the 5+5 Dialogue on Higher Education, Research and Innovation (HERI), currently cochaired by Italy and Tunisia, and participate as observer in the Fourth 5+5 Ministerial Conference foreseen to take place in Rome, Italy, in March 2019. It will also support, when appropriate, the implementation of actions endorsed by the 5+5 Ministers in the Action Plan for 2017-2019 annexed to the Ministerial Declaration (Tunis, Tunisia, March 2017), with the objective to foster interactions with relevant UfM activities and to contribute to the replication of most promising initiatives to additional UfM countries.

ii. Monitoring Regional Projects and Initiatives

a. Monitoring of labelled projects/initiatives

Euro-med University of Fes

The Euromed University of Fes (Université Euro-med de Fès, UEMF) stands as a new centre of excellence contributing to regional stability and integration through the promotion of dialogue, intercultural exchange, sharing of knowledge and cooperation in the fields of higher education, research and innovation.

After having helped the Euro-med University of Fes to close its financing needs related to investment in 2017, the UfM Secretariat makes its efforts to ensure the largest diversity of nationalities and gender balance amongst its faculty and student population while to accompany the University in the accreditation and promotion of its degree-awarding programmes. It will also continue fostering new partnerships with outstanding universities, research centers and private companies of the region with a view of establishing joint degrees and research projects, creating internship schemes and mobility opportunities.

The UfM Secretariat will review in 2019 the scope of cooperation with the Euro-med University of Fes, which could range from developing joint activities in fields of mutual interest such as Intercultural Dialogue, Higher Education and Research & Innovation cooperation, Youth Employability, Environment, Blue Economy, Energy, Climate Action or Tourism to offering to the University to host on its eco-campus UfM meetings or events encompassed in the UfM Work Programme. Building on the MoU previously signed by both institutions, a 2019 joint action plan will be agreed.

> EMUNI University

In view of contributing to sustainable development, peace and prosperity, the EMUNI University seeks to become 1) a reference university conducting quality study programmes and state-of-the art research in fields of high relevance and serving the Euro-Mediterranean region, 2) a committed and dynamic network of diverse Higher Education and Research Institutions and 3) an inclusive platform for intercultural dialogue and science diplomacy.



After participating in 2018 in the reflection and discussion on the outline of its new Strategy for the period 2019-2024, the UfM Secretariat will assist the EMUNI University in achieving its 2025 institutional goals: developing new accredited study programmes, improving communication, attracting students and academic staff, strengthening the University's network and inner circle, ensuring sustainable funding, building partnerships, etc.

The UfM Secretariat will also pursue its efforts in promoting the current study programmes, education activities as well as projects of the EMUNI University. As in previous years, the UfM Secretariat will actively participate and promote the 2019 EMUNI Annual Conference to take place in a Southern Mediterranean country which is expected to focus on the recognition of qualifications.

In its capacity of member of the two management boards of both institutions, the UfM Secretariat will continue to encourage cooperation between the Euro-med University of Fes and the EMUNI University. In the same way than with the UEMF, a 2019 joint action plan will be agreed between the UfM Secretariat and the EMUNI University on the basis of the existing MoU.

> Mediterranean New Chance

Mediterranean New Chance (In French, *Méditerranée Nouvelle Chance*, MedNC) addresses the challenges of early school leaving and youth unemployment in the Euro-Mediterranean region - principally, of young people who are *not in Education*, *Employment*, *or Training* (NEETs) with a particular focus on young women- by mobilizing and strengthening cooperation among stakeholders working in the field of socio-professional integration, including second chance schools.

Through a technical assistance already initiated in 2018, in the first quarter of 2019 the UfM Secretariat will continue to accompany the MedNC network in the development of a communication strategy and tools.

As in previous years, the UfM Secretariat will collaborate and actively participate to the MedNC Steering Committee's bi-annual meetings (February - Portugal), the MedNC Annual Conference (November - Spain) along with to some national events organized by the members.

Moreover, the UfM Secretariat will support the MedNC network in the consolidation of its governance, the publication of a study containing a mapping of good practices in the field of socioprofessional integration as well as in the finalization of a set of indicators with regard to the structure of the members, the profile of the young beneficiaries, the implemented pedagogical model and the actual results/impact.

Last but not least, the UfM Secretariat will facilitate the contacts of the MedNC network with governments of the UfM Member States and foster their cooperation with relevant stakeholders from the public and private sectors as well as from the civil society, academia and media.

> High Opportunity for Mediterranean Executive Recruitment (HOMERe)



Promoted by the *Réseau Méditerranéen des Ecoles d'Ingénieurs et de Commerce* (RMEI, in English 'Mediterranean Network of Engineering and Business Schools') with the assistance of a wide network of socio-economic and academic partners, the project supports youth employment, specifically of young graduates, through an international internship programme focused on the Mediterranean region (Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia). In addition to equipping students with transversal skills relevant to the labor market, HOMERe also creates mobility opportunities for youth.

Labelled activities of HOMERe being now completed, the UfM Secretariat will further cooperate in 2019 with the promoter in order to ensure the project's sustainability and explore with them possibilities for scaling-up and extending activities to other UfM countries and to specific occupational sectors of the climate, green and blue economy, provided the necessary financing is secured. New opportunities in the policy area of legal migration which could boost the project development will be carefully scrutinized.

> Eastern Mediterranean International School (EMIS)

EMIS is an international boarding school located in Israel, home to 170 students coming from more than 40 countries, which offers youth aged 16-18 a two-year innovative programme preparing them for the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

2019 will be dedicated to monitoring the implementation of the project, working with the promoter to raise the remaining required funds and continuing activities to facilitate building partnerships around the project.

b. Development of project pipeline

A new project ("Implementing a Rapid Response Mechanism for Higher Education in Emergencies in the Euro-Med region", promoted by the Global Platform for Syrian Students) is currently under preparation and is expected to be presented to the SOM for a possible labelling in 2019. The project aims at testing a systemic and sustainable mechanism tailored to the Euro-Mediterranean region for tackling the challenge of higher education academic needs of young Syrians in forced mobility and of students living in affected host communities.

c. Other initiatives and horizontal activities

Recognition of qualifications

As underlined in the Cairo Ministerial Declaration towards a Euro-Mediterranean Higher Education and Research Area (2007), improving recognition of qualifications is a prerequisite to expand intraregional mobility in the Euro-Mediterranean area. Following up on bilateral meetings held in 2018 between the UfM and the UNESCO in the framework of their common MoU, the UfM Secretariat will engage alongside the UNESCO in its endeavors to establish an Arab Network for the National Information Centers (ARIC) for the recognition of Higher Education diplomas and certificates (HED) to support the revision of the Arab Convention on the Recognition of HED. In particular the UfM Secretariat may, depending on available resources, partner with the UNESCO Beirut Office in the organization of the kick-off event of the ARIC network in the first part of 2019. In parallel,



consultations with the UNESCO and concerned parties will further be conducted in view to assess the feasibility of a possible comprehensive regional project for UfM labelling in this area with the objective to ensure ARIC long-term sustainability. Such project could tentatively cover a networking component encompassing an annual conference of ARIC network members, a capacitybuilding component and a multiplier component

The UfM Secretariat will ensure appropriate interactions and synergies with the ENIC-NARIC network and the Mediterranean Network of National Information Centers on the Recognition of Qualifications (MERIC-Net) project currently funded by the Erasmus+ programme.

> Consolidating and building strategic partnerships

- University networks
 - o GUNi

The UfM Secretariat will continue collaborating with the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi), international network gathering 210 members from 78 countries universities founded by the UNESCO, the United Nations University (UNU) and the Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP), which hosts its secretariat and presidency.

In particular, the UfM Secretariat will actively participate, by the end of 2019, to the 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals and will be involved in the dissemination of a call for papers in view of the publication of a report on this subject. Moreover, the UfM Secretariat will closely follow-up the work of the GUNi Expert Group on SDG's.

Additionally, the UfM Secretariat will be implicated in the publication of the report Higher Education in the World "Humanities and Higher Education; Generating Synergies between Science, Technology and Humanities" through the coordination of a chapter containing the contributions of Mediterranean authors.

o **AECHE**

The UfM Secretariat will partner in view of the 5th AECHE Conference with the members of the Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE): The European University Association (EUA), the Association of Arab Universities (AArU), the University of Barcelona, the Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (UNICA), the UNIMED, the Aix-Marseille University and the University of Murcia. The 2019 Conference, to be possibly held at the University of Catania, will as in previous editions constitute a wide forum for the promotion of dialogue and cooperation between Universities from both rims of the Mediterranean.

• UNIMED

In the field of higher education, the UfM Secretariat will continue involving UNIMED in its dialogue processes and activities, searching for mutually closer synergies and interactions.

The UfM Secretariat and UNIMED will hold in 2019 a follow-up meeting to review the implementation of their new agenda of cooperation agreed in 2018 which aimed at bringing a new



dimension – essentially a cross-sectorial dimension - to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the UfM Secretariat and the UNIMED in 2014 and renewed in 2017.

• International Association of Universities

The UfM Secretariat will assess in 2019 the opportunity of engaging in a partnership agreement with the **International Association of Universities (IAU)** in order to structure existing ad-hoc cooperation and frame it in a longer-term perspective. UfM Secretariat and IAU foresee to collaborate in 2019 on the dissemination of the 5th IAU Global Survey on Internationalization of Higher Education towards Eastern and Southern Mediterranean higher education institutions and stakeholders and join their expertise with other partners to organize a regional capacity-building and networking seminar on higher education internationalisation for staff from international relations offices of higher education institutions located in the Euro-Mediterranean region (October2019).

• Student networks

In order to ensure youth participation in its regional dialogue processes and activities, and following up on past interactions, the UfM Secretariat will consider the opportunity of developing a structured cooperation with the **Erasmus Student Network (ESN)** and with the **Association internationale des étudiants en sciences économiques et commerciales (AIESEC)**.

Closely linked to the work of the UfMS action on education, the need to strengthen intercultural and interfaith dialogue in the Mediterranean lies as an important underlying dimension of regional cooperation and is more generally related to all activities held in the framework of the UfM. Indeed, dialogue and respect between cultures and religions are necessary preconditions for bringing people closer together and for building cultural bridges in the Mediterranean. As such, it is identified in the 2017 UfM Roadmap as one of the means for contributing to regional integration, stability and human development, particularly through the prevention of extremism and radicalisation.

So far, the UfM contributed to launch various initiatives in relation with culture throughout its sectors of activity, mainly youth, women empowerment and education. In 2019, the UfM foresees to reinforce and extend this work, the objective being to further explore the potential role of Culture as a factor on intercultural and interfaith dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

Through a first study that will be carried out in 2019, the UfMS will explore potential regional niches in the field of culture. The Secretariat will particularly explore the possibility of setting up a regional platform for Mediterranean Cultural Dialogue. This will be done initially through the support of the UfM Senior Officials, whereby focal points working at the competent ministries as technical experts will be primarily approached, as well as through the identification of relevant stakeholders in the



field including international organizations, cooperation agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities, etc.

This platform for regional dialogue would serve to build a working plan in the cultural field, to promote exchanges and to develop partnerships in view of fostering the development of new regional projects on culture.

The UfMS has already established a dialogue with a number of relevant partners with whom it could cooperate in view of developing the culture dimension: Anna Lindh Foundation, UNESCO, OMT, UNAOC, KAICIID, UE, OSCE, League of Arab States, MFT, OIF, etc...

In terms of projects and initiatives, the UfM will work to reinforce the cultural aspects in the already labelled projects in the fields of education, youth, women empowerment and employment, as well as to identify new projects for future labelling.

At the same time, following the general agreement on the need of strengthening regional cooperation on Culture at the 2nd Meeting of the Ministers of Culture for the 5+5 Dialogue (Lisbon, 2018), the UfMS will continue working on this field in the 5+5 Dialogue framework. It will notably:

- Participate to the 3rd meeting of the Ministers of Culture 5+5 that will be held in Algeria in September 2019.
- Participate to the Mediterranean Festival of Digital Arts 5+5 that will be celebrated in Tunisia in October 2019.



1.4. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION: Harnessing regional knowledge to address common challenges

Strategic objectives 2018-2020

Research and innovation (R&I) play a key role in taking the world onto a sustainable path. In that sense, regional cooperation efforts in these fields can have an important role in contributing to the UfM overall objectives in terms of human and sustainable development, with positive knock-on effects on social and cultural dimensions.

The UfM agenda for 2018-2020 in the field of Research and Innovation is based on and linked to the **Mediterranean policy frameworks** in place:

- The UfM Roadmap for Action, chapter 2.4;
- Several Ministerial Declarations: on Research & Innovation (Valletta, 3-4 March 2017); on Employment and Labour (Dead Sea, 27 September 2016); on a Euro-Mediterranean HER area (Cairo, 18 June 2007) and all UfM sectorial Ministerial Declarations bearing a strong R&I component such as the one on Water (Valletta, 27 April 2017) and on Blue Economy (Brussels, 17 November 2015).

On this basis, the UfM Secretariat will strive to reach by 2020 the following strategic objectives:

• In the fields of Research and Innovation:

- Contributing actively to the **implementation of the PRIMA** (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area) programme of the European Commission in complementarity and close articulation with the implementation of the UfM Water agenda;
- Ensuring the **extension of the BLUEMED initiative** to Southern Mediterranean countries within the global framework of the UfM Blue Economy agenda;
- Contributing to regional dialogue on innovation policies;
- Strengthening regional cooperation in **R&I aimed at understanding and addressing the** root causes of migrations;
- Improving brain circulation and engagement with the scientific diaspora;
- Widening Mediterranean participation to EU-funded programmes, in particular Horizon
 2020 and forthcoming EC framework programmes for R&I;
- Supporting regional efforts to increase knowledge and technology transfer across the Mediterranean as well as efforts to transfer research results into policy decision-making.

To support the implementation of these strategic objectives over the medium term, the UfM Secretariat will, as general guidelines of work: ensure translation of relevant **Ministerial commitments** into concrete actions, consolidate **dialogue mechanisms** to further facilitate regional synergies and cooperation among UfM Member States and stakeholders to collaborate on joint actions in these areas; ensure synergies with the **Roadmap for EU-Southern Neighbourhood Science & Technology Cooperation** of the Directorate-General for Research and



Innovation of the European Commission; set up new **strategic partnerships** while strengthening those that already exist (i.e. CIHEAM, Groupement inter-académique pour le développement (GID), UNESCO, UNIMED); assist promoters in **scaling up the impact** of their UfM labelled projects (in particular by encompassing the enlargement to other countries, the implication of additional partners and the increase of targeted beneficiaries) and in **developing new regional projects**. Finally, the women empowerment dimension is streamlined in the activities of the Research and Innovation field, especially concerning female scientists and researchers.

The activities of the UfM Secretariat for 2018-2020 in the area of Research and Innovation aim to contribute to SDG 9.5 *Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, [...] encouraging innovation* as well as to all SDGs where the R&I dimension plays a crucial role in their successful achievement. Furthermore, questions related to gender equality and women empowerment (SDG 5), reducing inequalities in the region (SDG 10) and environment and climate action (SDG 13) will be mainstreamed throughout the UfMS action in this priority area.

2019 specific objectives

Within the framework of 2018-2020 strategic orientations for higher education and research, the UfM will focus its efforts in 2019 on the operational follow-up of the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through Research and Innovation (Valletta, 3-4 May 2017), within the limits of available resources, through:

- Contributing to the implementation of PRIMA programme in complementarity and close articulation with the UfM Water Agenda (contribution to SDG2, SDG6 and SDG15)
- Ensuring the extension of the BLUEMED Initiative within the global framework of the UfM Blue Economy agenda (contribution to SDG14)
- Promoting Research and innovation's role in understanding and addressing the root causes of migration (contribution to SDG10).

i. <u>Promoting Regional Dialogue</u>

> Euro-Mediterranean Group of Senior Officials on Research and Innovation (EU-Med GSO)

As in the past and in the framework of the follow-up of the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through Research and Innovation (Valletta, 3-4 May 2017), the UfM Secretariat will participate in the 24th meeting of the EU-Med GSO foreseen for 2019. This will also allow be an opportunity for the UfM Secretariat to share relevant R&I-related outcomes from UfM sectoral dialogue platforms.

> PRIMA (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area)

In view of the potential synergies between the work of the PRIMA Foundation and of the UfM Secretariat in several fields – notably Water and Research & Innovation, but also Business Development & Employment, Environment, Climate Action & Agriculture, Blue Economy, etc. – both institutions will continue to closely collaborate in 2019.



In particular, the UfM Secretariat will actively participate to regular meetings related to the programme, notably, the meetings of the PRIMA General Assembly, in its capacity of observer member, and of the Scientific Advisory Committee, in its role of co-chair. Some of these meetings could be hosted by the UfM Secretariat.

Furthermore, the UfM Secretariat will help to disseminate the 2019 PRIMA calls for project proposals (possibly through the co-organisation of PRIMA info days) and will be involved in the preparation of the 2020 PRIMA Work Plan.

In addition, the UfM Secretariat will explore jointly with the PRIMA Foundation concrete ways to cooperate on the implementation of the activities supporting programme operation funded and implemented by PRIMA Participating States envisaged in the 2019 PRIMA Work Plan (PRIMA Stakeholder Committee, Training and Education: MOOC, Innovator Broker in the Mediterranean Area, PRIMA Observatory on Innovation).

In view of the convergence of priorities on the Nexus approach in the PRIMA Work Plan and the UfM Water agenda, consultations will be regularly held to ensure complementarity in their line of work and representatives of the PRIMA Foundation will be regularly invited by the UfM Secretariat to Nexus Task force and to the UfM Water Expert Group. PRIMA representatives will also be invited to other relevant UfM platforms for regional dialogue such as the Climate Change Expert Group ad-hoc meeting on Agriculture.

BLUEMED Initiative (Research and Innovation for Blue Jobs and Growth in the Mediterranean Area)

he BLUEMED initiative is a means to promote a healthy, productive and resilient Mediterranean Sea and stresses the importance of structuring Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in marine and maritime sectors to encompass a broad range of objectives comprising the creation of new, blue jobs and social well-being while also being mindful of sustainable development and the preservation of the environment in the Mediterranean area. The initiative is horizontally supported by the UfMS as Research and Innovation and Blue Economy.

n continuity with the actions initiated in 2017 in close coordination with DG RTD, DG MARE and the BLUEMED CSA, the UfM Secretariat will further support the extension of the BLUEMED Initiative to UfM non-EU Mediterranean countries willing to join on a voluntary basis, facilitating the implementation of common priorities for regional cooperation identified at national and regional level.

During 2018, the UfM Secretariat has been instrumental in supporting this R&I initiative by participating and hosting key meetings. Additionally, it has offered a support team facilitating the definition of national research priorities on blue economy by South and East Mediterranean Countries.

In 2019, the UfM plans to continue supporting the activities of the BLUEMED Working Group (WG) under the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Group of Senior Officials in Research and Innovation. Particularly, it will participate actively to the Meetings of the BLUEMED WG, foresee

hosting on a regular basis the annual BLUEMED Week on its premises and be an active partner of agreed initiatives related to Research and Innovation on Blue Economy also through a dedicated technical assistance (see also the Blue Economy section).

> Mediterranean Platform for Dialogue on the Drivers of Rural Migration

In line with the Valletta Declaration on Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through Research and Innovation (Valletta, 2017), in 2018 the UfM Secretariat participated in the development of a new "Mediterranean Platform for Dialogue on the Drivers of Rural Migration" promoted by the CIHEAM in cooperation with the FAO and the European University Institute.

The initiative aims at encouraging political dialogue, knowledge creation and sharing, as well as best practices and giving impetus to new studies, training sessions and technical assistance on the origins and causes of rural migration in the Mediterranean. Currently, it is bringing together representatives of the policy-makers, international development and research communities in order to discuss the implication of rural development and agriculture in root causes of migration, aiming to address the involuntary drivers of migration both from rural to urban areas and across the Mediterranean.

Particularly, in 2019 the UfM Secretariat will continue being an active partner to this platform by promoting regional dialogue and participation to the platform's events and publication, also by diffusing the results of the launch event held in May 2018 at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, among its regional networks.

Sectoral Dialogue 5+5

See related paragraph in Higher Education chapter.

iii. Monitoring Regional Projects and Initiatives

a. Monitoring of labelled projects/initiatives

Higher Education on Food Security & Rural Development

Building on its strategic partnership with the CIHEAM, the UfM Secretariat has successfully expanded its areas of cooperation with the institution to the fields of higher education, research and Innovation, agriculture and food security, migration, climate action, blue economy, water and environment, youth employability, and women empowerment. An annual action plan could be formalized between the two institutions during the course of 2019.

After having consolidated the activities of the Mediterranean Doctoral Platform, the UfM Secretariat and CIHEAM will cooperate in order to address, among others, the topic of entrepreneurship and employment among graduates, particularly in the framework of the Ciheam Alumni Network (NCA), a hub creating a common space for exchanging information and increasing awareness on Mediterranean programmes and initiatives.



On the topic of "blue careers", the UfM Secretariat will offer its expertise and facilitate regional synergies in the framework of training courses aiming to support the development of coastal communities in connection with the principles of blue economy and job creation.

The UfM Secretariat will participate to the 12th Ministerial Meeting of the CIHEAM's Member Countries, foreseen to be held in Tunisia in 2019.

b. Development of project pipeline

Blue Jobs and Growth in the Mediterranean area throughout Enhancing Skills and Developing Capacities (BLUMES)

In the framework of the UfM Blue Economy Agenda, the UfM Secretariat will support the Italian National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (OGS) expanding its ongoing activities on blue careers, research and capacity building through developing a regional project enhancing skills and developing capacities of PhD students, researchers and young professionals in relation to the blue economy.

This project, already endorsed by Ministers of the 5+5 Dialogue on Research, Innovation and Higher Education (Tunis, Tunisia, 31 March 2017), has been expanded to more countries in the UfM region and it comprises eight specific actions, one of which (the Summer School) has seen the involvement of EMUNI university in 2018.

In 2019, the UfM Secretariat will promote further involvement of stakeholders from the Mediterranean region to the project, the organization of activities in the Southern Mediterranean and invite the promoters to relevant UfM meetings. A specific focus will be dedicated to the topic of employability in the "blue career" field.

c. Other initiatives and horizontal activities

• Employability of Research

The development of skills through PhDs, masters and research is an essential cross-cutting tool for supporting the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in the Euro-Mediterranean region, especially on topics such as Water, Blue Economy, Climate Change, Food security and Environment, and for the creation of business opportunities out of challenges. At the same time, young researchers and PhD students in the region often face challenges in finding meaningful job opportunities.

In 2019, the UfM Secretariat will explore ways to promote a dedicated interactive workshop as a venue for sharing best practices bridging the gap between academia and job markets, highlighting standing challenges and offering recommendations on employability of researchers.

Topics to be covered could be industrial PhDs, synergies with the private sector, innovation agenda and PRIMA and BLUEMED, soft skills for researchers, networks of alumni and other success stories.



• Euro-Mediterranean Research Network on Migration

During 2018, the UfMS has supported the launch of Euro-Mediterranean network of research institutes on migration (EuroMedMig-ReNet) on the occasion of the 15th IMISCOE (International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe) Annual Conference in partnership with its coordinators in 2018, GRITIM (Grupo de Investigación Interdisciplinario sobre Inmigración), an interdisciplinary research group of Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona.

The core mission of the EuroMedMig-ReNet network is to promote research, training, and knowledge transfer on the key current issues and main challenges connected with the migratory research Agenda in the Mediterranean.

During 2019, the UfM Secretariat and GRITIM will further promote the activities of the network with the aim of increasing knowledge sharing and exchanges on the deep roots of migration in the Euro-Mediterranean region, such as the creation of Euro-Mediterranean summer schools and publications.

• Institute of Studies on the Mediterranean Societies of the Italian National Council of Research (ISSM-CNR)

As a follow-up to the MoU signed in 2015 between the UfM and ISSM-CNR and the support given to the ISSM-UfM publication on "Mediterranean Migration and the Labour Market: Policies for Growth and Social Development in the Mediterranean Area", in 2019 the UfM will promote the diffusion of the publication through its university networks.

Additionally, the UfMS will identify new partners in order to explore the co-organisation of a workshop on research and innovation in addressing the deep roots of migration, where ISSM-CNR could present its research results, especially on the assessment of the deep causes and tools for developing skills. A cross-cutting issue to be considered could be women empowerment.

• Promoting regional innovation

In order to fully tap the potential of economic growth and sustainable development of the Mediterranean, innovation plays a fundamental role in knowledge creation and in identifying innovative solutions as a means to creating more opportunities for youth and to understanding and addressing key challenges in the Mediterranean area.

n 2019, the UfM Secretariat will investigate regional needs and gaps on innovation in order to identify an operating niche for promoting regional best practices of innovation supporting Mediterranean young researchers and PhD students.

Innovation led by young researchers in the horizontal fields of the UfM positive agenda will be promoted, in fields such as fields of rural development, blue economy, water and environment, energy, and circular economy.

• Regional Research networks



Links will be sought or further strengthened with relevant regional economic and political research networks (such as FEMISE, EMNES, and IeMED) for instance by presenting relevant research findings in the different UfM working groups or by participating to conferences and policy advocacy workshops.



1.5. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: REINFORCING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETIES

Strategic objectives 2018-2020

In the Mediterranean, significant progress has taken place in relation to women and girls' rights, and overall, gender issues have gained significant momentum. In many countries, there are more women going to universities than men. There are also positive trends in women's participation in the economic life, in politics and decision-making. Yet, gender equality remains an important challenge in the region, and a clear gap divides the legislative efforts from actual implementation. Discriminatory practices, social barriers, insufficient institutional protections and unequal access to services and resources continue to block women's and girl's progress. A lot remains to be done in legislation, policies, programming and planning to create an environment in which women and men can fulfil their full potential on an equal footing to achieve prosperity, stability and peace for the region.

The UfM Ministerial meetings on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society (Istanbul 2006, Marrakech 2009, Paris 2013 and Cairo 2017¹) as well as the 3rd Ministerial on Employment and Labour² (Jordan, 2016) further reinforced the UfM Secretariat's mandate to promote and strengthen the role of women in society, both in terms of rights and opportunities, as an essential asset to foster regional stability and socio-economic development. Furthermore, the UfM Roadmap³ for Action adopted y UfM Ministers in 2017 confirmed this important agenda and mandated the UfM Secretariat to develop the appropriate strategy and initiatives to achieve this objective.

The UfM strategy on promoting gender equality and women empowerment has been progressively built and structured over the past years in close coordination with the UfM countries and the key stakeholders operating in the region, including local authorities, international organisations, donors, civil society, academia and private sector. It aims to enhance the regional cooperation as women empowerment constitutes a common and shared value and priority between countries from both shores of the Mediterranean.

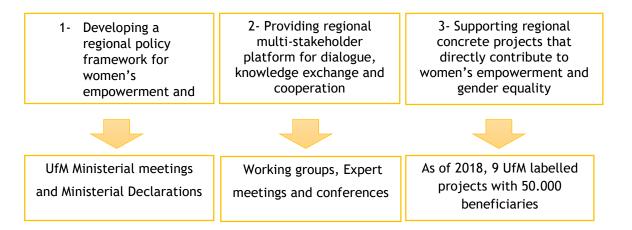
The strategy is implemented through an integrated approach articulated around 3 Pillars that constitute the UfM Methodology of work:

¹ https://UfMsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/womenfinaldeclaration.pdf

 $^{^2\} https://UfMsecretariat.org//wp-content/uploads/2016/09/UfM-Ministerial-Declaration-Employment-and-Labour.pdf$

³ https://UfMsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/UfM-Roadmap-for-action-2017.pdf





4 priority areas have been identified by the UfM countries and regional stakeholders for the coming years, and confirmed by the fourth Ministerial Declaration:

- 1. Increase women's economic participation by fostering their skills to promote an equal access to the labour market and by creating an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs.
- 2. Combating violence against women and girls including in conflict and post-conflict contexts.
- 3. Strengthening women access to leadership positions in public and private sector.
- 4. Combating gender stereotypes and fighting against social norms that hinder the full participation of women.

Inside these 4 priorities areas, countries and stakeholders agreed to consider the specific needs of women and girl migrants, refugees and women in conflict and post-conflict context, women in rural areas and women with disability.

In the next two/three years, the UfMS seeks to reach the following objectives through an integrated and multi-stakeholders approach, targeting several sectors and different entry points:

- 1) Building a common political agenda for the Mediterranean region toward gender equality and women empowerment.
- 2) Supporting a consolidated and sustainable dialogue process on women empowerment as a mutual monitoring mechanism and a learning-based exercise which will allow assessing the impact of countries and stakeholders' policies and interventions, evaluating the gaps and proposing concrete and corrective measures as well as recommendations to improve the implementation and maximise the impact on women and girls.
- 3) Establishing a partnership-building process to develop strategic and complementary partnerships and cooperation between key stakeholders to increase the impact. Partnerships/cooperation between public bodies and international organisations, civil society, women and youth networks, academic, private sector and local authorities, will be promoted and facilitated and joint agendas and programmes developed.
- 4) Implementing capacity development activities to improve impact and efficiency of implementation of institutions (public and private bodies) and capacities and skills of



individuals (women and their networks) in some specific and key issues, with a special focus on promoting economic and social participation and leadership of women and combating violence against women and girls.

5) Promoting concrete and targeted interventions and projects measured against impact indicators.

The proposed objectives will contribute to strengthen the regional cooperation, coordination and partnership between governments and national institutions, civil society and strategic organisations at the regional level toward women empowerment, to develop regional networks, to share knowledge and experiences and good practices, to shape opinion and to increase stakeholders' accountability. On the other hand, the process seeks to foster coherence and synergies and to complement the national efforts in the area of gender equality and women empowerment.

2019 specific objectives

The specific objectives for 2019 aim at accomplishing the following outcomes, within the limits of available resources:

- Finalising the design and start implementing the 4th Ministerial follow-up mechanism on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society, as provided by the Ministerial Declaration.
- Finalising the research study on the role of women and youth in preventing extremism.
- Developing at least 2 operational partnerships with key partners, based on joint work plans, with the objective to scale-up the scope and impact of UfM actions.
- Monitoring the implementation of the 9 labelled projects and the other UfM supported projects and initiatives.
- Building at least 2 partnerships with donors to support UfM agenda on women empowerment (2018-2019).
- Identifying at least 2 new concrete and strategic initiatives/projects to support women and girls' empowerment.
- Organising a Women Business and Investment forum to promote women entrepreneurship and business development.
- Giving our action visibility, notably on the occasion of the 8th of March.

The outcomes of the UfM strategy on women empowerment will contribute to the global agenda and the Unites Nations SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) namely:

- To combat inequalities within and among countries (SDG10);
- To build peaceful, just and inclusive societies (SDG16);
- To protect human rights and to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (SDG5);
- To ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes (SDG3);



- To ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all girls and boys, women and men and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG4);

To promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG8).

i. Promoting Regional Dialogue

> Design and implement the 4th Ministerial follow-up mechanism

The regional dialogue meeting that was held on 9th of October 2018 in Lisbon, and which has discussed the ministerial follow-up mechanism based on the draft background document prepared by the UfM Secretariat, provided recommendations for the Secretariat that would help to design the mechanism and mandated the UfMS to make a proposal in this respect. This mainly concerns: identify a set of indicators for the Ministerial Declaration, develop monitoring tools, identify the gaps and capacity building needs in some specific fields, in particular gender-sensitive data and statistics and finally work and interact with the existing mechanisms in the region to ensure complementarity and cooperation in this regard.

The foreseen activities in 2019 are:

- **Updating the background document**, meaning analysing in detail the existing mechanisms in the region and identify the complementarity/interaction including opportunities of cooperation with the UfM Ministerial mechanism.
- Proposing a **set of indicators for the 4 priorities areas** approved by countries: women economic participation, women leadership, combating violence against women and combating gender stereotypes and negative social norms.
- Proposing **tools that will be used for the monitoring**: reporting template, questionnaires, sources of existing data for the 4 priority areas.
- Data and Statistics: analyse the existing sources of data, the gap and capacity building needs.

In this regards, **a regional meeting** involving the main actors in data and statistics will be held involving national statistics and data production institutions, regional statistics and research institutions (Eurostat, Medstat⁴, EU gender Institute, OECD Development Centre-SIGI⁵, PRIMA and other relevant institutions), national concerned ministries, international and regional organisations (OECD, UN Women, World Bank, EU, CIHEAM, ILO, ETF...). The meeting will help in identifying with countries and stakeholders the existing sources of data production, identify the gaps and capacity building needs and explore opportunities of regional partnerships and initiative to make advance in this regards.

Furthermore, **a capacity building activity** is expected to be held based of the identified needs from countries.

⁴ MEDSTAT IV – Coopération statistique euro-méditerranéenne

⁵ OECD Development Centre's Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)



A **regional dialogue meeting** to present and validate with countries the final draft of the mechanism's indicators, methodology and tools. The main consultation exercise will be done beforehand by using digital tools (emails, conference calls and Skype meetings). This meeting will also be the occasion to present new stakeholders engagements and regional programming toward gender equality and women empowerment (from countries, international organisations, donors, private sector and civil society). A specific focus will be given to women's economic participation and combating violence against women.

To achieve this outcome, the UfMS **will develop strategic partnerships** with key stakeholders that would provide their experience and expertise to supporting the Secretariat in developing the monitoring mechanism but the aim also is to explore opportunities of supporting countries and national institutions in this specific field.

> The research study on the role of women and youth in preventing extremism

Started in 2017, the research study has 4 main objectives:

- 1. *Examine the patterns of violent extremism of individuals* to provide a better understanding of youth and women vulnerability to violent extremism. Both youth and gender-sensitive approaches will be used to better assess those patterns in light of existing theories on radicalization.
- 2. Analyze factors that prevent people from embracing violent extremism: both structural and individual factors will be studied through data analysis and case studies. The project will suggest ways to build community resilience in the countries of study and examine the role that women and youth can play.
- 3. *Promote the exchange of good practices:* examining existing programs and initiatives in the countries of study and, if applicable, researching practices that are applicable in other contexts. In this respect, multi-stakeholders' practices will be examined.
- 4. Identify opportunities and 'entry points' to support the inclusion of women and young people as preventers of violent extremism in Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) strategies: studying ways in which youth and women as preventers can be included in the policy-making and decision making processes as part of integrated PVE strategies.

The study aims to meet one of the commitment of the UfM 4th Ministerial Declaration on strengthening the role of women in society which is to promote research and data production in the field of women, peace and security. The research will target 7 UfM countries: France, Germany, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Spain and the United Kingdom. The study is expected to be finalized in April 2019.

A **Regional meeting** will be organised to present to countries and concerned stakeholders the study findings and discuss the way forward implementing the study's relevant recommendations. This meeting will be organised jointly with the regional dialogue meeting (*see outcome N. I*).

> Developing operational partnerships around concrete actions



Building on the work that has already been conducted in 2017-2018 in promoting the relevance of the UfMS work on women empowerment, among the key regional stakeholders, and based on the partnership's opportunities explored during the 2018 women conference, 2019 will be dedicated to better develop the following operational partnerships/relationships:

<u>CIHEAM</u>⁶: under the framework of the MOU between the UpM and CIHEAM that has been renewed in 2017, a joint work plan for 2018 on women empowerment has been signed between the two institutions which includes: a joint publication on the challenges of women in rural areas, an online discussion on women in rural areas and financial contribution in the women conference.

For 2019, discussions are underway with CIHEAM to agree on a new action plan on women empowerment that will cover 2019-2020. The main actions will cover Data and statistics production on women in rural areas, research, women access to high education in agricultural studies and labelling of relevant CIHEAM regional projects and initiatives. This action plan will be developed under a broader action plan that is under discussion with CIHEAM and that will concern the following **UfM sectors: women empowerment, higher education, research, Climate Change, water and environment**.

- <u>OECD</u>: under the framework of the follow-up of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on women empowerment, discussion is underway with the OECD and the OECD Development Centre-SIGI to find a way to collaborate towards developing regional gender-based indicators and statistics to follow-up the implementation of the ministerial Declaration. The 2018 women conference held in Lisbon has offered the opportunity to confirm this engagement from OECD that is expected to be concretised in 2019.
- International telecommunication Union (ITU): ITU has approached the UfMS to explore the opportunity to identify a **training for employment initiative** for young women and men on technology and coding. The objective is to develop talents in this promoting sector as was identified in the World Economic Forum recent report on the future of work in the region. In addition, the 2018 UfM Women Conference has highlighted a huge gender gap in this sector and has recommended to increase efforts toward allowing more women and girls to access the ICT. A preliminary discussion between ITU and UfM has occurred in Lisbon in the margin of the women conference to explore how to build cooperation and partnership between the two institutions to promote the access to ICT for young women and men in the Mediterranean region, especially via training for employment and what is called "Coding Bootcamps". ITU has a previous similar experience in Latin America that has achieved very good results and would like to develop the concept in the Mediterranean region. For now, the proposed potential partners are ITU, UfM, ILO, national concerned ministries and institutions including vocational training institutions, private sector (Microsoft, Google...), national private sector (as employer) and other relevant national support schemes.

⁶ Centre international de hautes études agronomiques méditerranéennes



Holding a regional meeting with the concerned stakeholders in 2019 is proposed to present the concept to countries, identify needs and targets and explore stakeholders' will and engagement toward implementing training activities for young women and men in countries.

This initiative will be implemented in close coordination with business development and higher education divisions.

- CMI- World Bank: A preliminary discussion between the CMI- World Bank and UfM has occurred in Lisbon in the margin of the women conference to explore partnership opportunities between the two institutions in the field of women empowerment. CMI-World Bank has confirmed officially this after the conference and women empowerment will be included in the MoU under preparation between the two institutions and concrete joint actions will be identify in this sector.
- **UNDP**: building on joint activities undertaken in 2017 and 2018 with UNDP, discussion is ongoing between the two institutions to develop a joint action plan in 2019 to promote women and youth economic participation. This will be identified and implemented in close coordination with HER and BD departments.
- WHO: discussion is underway with WHO to sign an MoU to promote the access of women and girls to health and in preventing violence against women. A draft proposal of a joint regional initiative on preventing violence against women is under discussion between the two institutions with the objective to be proposed to the labelling process, as contribution from WHO to the implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration.

ii. <u>Promoting Regional Projects and Initiatives</u>

a. Monitoring of labelled projects/initiatives

9 labelled projects and one pilot project are concerned:

- 1. Young women as job creators promoted by AFAEMME
- 2. Skills for success: employability skills for women, promoted by AmidEast in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.
- 3. Developing women empowerment, promoted by the Euro-Mediterranean Women Foundation, working with all interested Mediterranean countries.
- 4. CEED grow: growing and scaling small and medium sized businesses, promoted by CEED Global in Albania, Morocco and Tunisia.
- 5. Women of the Mediterranean: next generation of leaders, promoted by Sciences Po-Paris, in MENA countries.
- 6. Promoting women empowerment for inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the MENA region, promoted by UNIDO in MENA countries.



- 7. Women's Right to Health- The WoRTH Project, promoted by the Center for Epidemiology and Prevention in Oncology Piedmont in Italy and the World Health Organisation, in Albania, Montenegro and Morocco.
- 8. Forming responsible citizens, promoted by Ideaborn, in Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.
- 9. Enhancing the civic and social engagement of women and youth towards regional stability promoted by British Council, in Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.
- 10. The **pilot project** "empowering persons with disability through employment" promoted by ONCE.

Concerning the newly labelled projects, the UfM Secretariat will organise some promotion events to bring light on project activities and to facilitate building partnerships around projects both at the national and regional level, taking for example the opportunity of the celebration of the 8th of March. This concerns mainly the launching of the British council project recently labelled and the ONCE pilot project, the funding of which was recently approved by AECID.

Furthermore, the UfM Secretariat will continue working with promoters whose projects activities have been completed in order to work on their sustainability and to explore the possibilities of their scaling-up and their extension to other UfM countries. Funding availability will constitute a key element in this exercise.

> Partnerships with donors

In addition to monitoring the implementation of the partnership agreement with SIDA in the field of gender equality and women empowerment, the UfMS is discussing with a set of key donors in the region to explore opportunities for supporting UfM regional projects in the sector:

 Norway: discussions are ongoing with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway in order to sign a partnership agreement to finance UfM labelled projects in the field of women empowerment. In the case it is confirmed, the support will target in particular North African countries.

Potential activities in 2019 (upon signature of the partnership agreement):

- Preparing the grant contracts with the promoters including operational and financial aspects.
- Launching the projects, including an information day regarding contract procedures.
- Monitoring projects implementation, managing the grant contracts and reporting to the donor.
- AECID: contacts have started with AECID in 2016 to explore partnership opportunities with the UfM in the field of women empowerment and gender equality. AECID has supported the 2016 UfM Women conference and has recently approved a pilot project in Morocco on promoting economic inclusion of people with disabilities. The project has been identified and drafted with the support of the UfMS, under the 2018 UfM work programme and is promoted by the Spanish organisation ONCE in partnership



with private sector and national institutions dealing with vocational training. An MoU should be signed between AECID, the UfMS and the project promoters before the end of the year. The project implementation is expected to start in 2019.

In parallel, discussion is open with AECID to explore in 2019 a strategic partnership in the field of women empowerment and gender equality between AECID and UfM.

- **Italy**: Italy has recently supported the second phase of the UfM labelled project "promoting women economic participation in MENA region" promoted by UNIDO (contribution of 1.4 Million EU). In addition, discussion is ongoing with Italian Agency for Development Co-operation to label two regional programmes on women empowerment recently funded by Italy (Cf. section number VI). The total budget (fully funded by Italy) of the two projects is about 9 Million EUR.
- **Monaco**: Monaco government has supported for many years UfM labelled projects on women empowerment. Recently Monaco has expressed the will to continue supporting UfM projects in this field. Discussion is underway to identify the projects that fit with Monaco priority area (women economic participation).

b. Development of the project pipeline

In 2019, at least 2 new regional projects/initiatives will be identified for the labelling process.

For now, discussion is ongoing with the Italian Agency for Development Co-operation to label two regional programmes on women empowerment recently funded by Italy: 1) promoting women in rural areas and 2) Assistance to and empowerment of Syrian refugee women and girls and vulnerable women and girls in host communities. The total budget (fully funded by Italy) of the two projects is about 9 Million EUR.

Discussions will also be opened with the European Commission to explore the opportunity to label the regional campaign on preventing violence against women that has been supported by the EU as contribution to the implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on strengthening the role of women in society.

c. Other Initiatives and horizontal activities

➢ Women Business Forum (3rd edition)

Under the framework of SIDA partnership, Women business Forum has the objective to provide a platform for dialogue, exchange of experience and networking and business and investment opportunities for women-owned and women-led-businesses from both shores of the Mediterranean. The forum is meant to build skills, connect and empower female entrepreneurs to start, grow and sustain their enterprises in a competitive environment that will lead towards a direct impact on the economy as well as the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region. The forum's agenda includes B2B networking and matchmaking, product and business concept exhibitions, business tours, and specific panels, trainings and keynote addresses with participation of high-level business experts and policy makers that will offer knowledge and advice on various business opportunities, good practices and success stories in



doing business in the Euro-Mediterranean region. 2019 edition would target among other relevant sectors the Tourism sector and could take place in Malta.



1.6. YOUTH: EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE AS ACTORS FOR CHANGE

Strategic objectives 2018-2020

Representing more than 60% of the population in the region, young people play an important role in enhancing inclusive and sustainable development in the Euro-Mediterranean area, and hold an untapped potential for promoting regional cooperation and integration. Indeed, with an enabling environment to facilitate their full participation in all aspects of society, youth can contribute to the resilience of their communities, proposing innovative solutions and driving social progress, in urban as well as rural areas. Young people constitute therefore a tremendous and essential asset worth investing in.

At the same time, young people are particularly vulnerable to the challenges that the Euro-Mediterranean region is facing: the transition from education to employment, access to decent work, violent extremism and radicalisation, or again the slow onsets of climate change are among the pressing issues youth are dealing with nowadays.

In this light, the UfM has placed youth at the heart of its regional strategy and action-oriented agenda, working with them not only as mere beneficiaries of projects but as full actors and partners in the promotion of stability and development in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

For the period of 2018-2020, the UfM Secretariat aims to therefore engage more with youth to enhance their participation in addressing the regional challenges, in a cross-cutting approach. This engagement will contribute to the development of regional networks, to the sharing of knowledge and experiences as well as to the development of new collaborations with relevant organizations and stakeholders working on youth, in full complementarity and synergy with initiatives developed by other organizations, such as the European Union, OECD, Council of Europe – North-South Centre, UNESCO, ALF, League of Arab States...

This will be done in the context of the UfM guidelines on Youth, to be adopted, which will structure the UfMS action and prepare for the first UfM Regional Dialogue on Youth involving the UfM Member States and the key actors in this field in the Euro-Mediterranean region, to be potentially launched in 2019. The objective would be to exchange on best practices, to define common priorities to work on a regional level and to assess, with partner countries, international cooperation's agencies and donors, concrete projects, initiatives and collaboration schemes that promote youth participation.

Youth-related targets are under several SDGs and are interrelated. That is why the activities of the UfMS under this cross-cutting sector contribute, to a larger extent, to the implementation of the whole 2030 Agenda, particularly to SDG 17 calling for the engagement of youth in the implementation of the SDGs targets.

2019 specific objectives



In 2019, the UfMS will publish a global document entitled: **"Our Youth, Our region: UfM guidelines for action / A UfM Positive Agenda for Future for Youth with Youth"**, which will serve the UfM as a roadmap in the youth field in the coming years.

<u>In parallel</u>, the agenda towards empowering youth and promoting their participation as main drivers for the regional's development and stability will be continued and reinforced in 2019 through the following specific actions, within the limits of available resources:

i. <u>Promoting Regional Dialogue</u>

Building on the consolidation of the networks and on the specific initiatives mentioned above, the UfM Secretariat will host in Barcelona in 2019 "The 1st UfM regional policy dialogue on youth".

With the aims of increasing regional awareness on youth participation and the possibilities of young people creating and influencing the policies closely related to them, one of the goals of this dialogue platform would be to improve cooperation and the coordination between UfM member States, regional Civil Society (CS) with the active participation of youngsters, UN bodies and regional organizations from both shores of the Mediterranean.

The main scope of every activity within this platform of dialogue will be to ease youth activism and participation by linking local authorities, policy makers, CSOs and youth leaders in UfM countries which will help building regional standards, practices and joint actions with youth at grassroots, national and regional level.

The creation of this regional platform will also seek an ongoing and open dialogue between youth especially underrepresented youth with fewer opportunities and stakeholders in their communities and in the Mediterranean region as a whole.

This regional dialogue will facilitate the consolidation of the UfM strategy in engaging the youth on the political and policy dialogue at national and regional level and empower them to contribute to the global development agenda.

The organization of this Forum will be held in consultation with the Co-Presidency and in the framework of the SOM.

Youth as a cross-cutting issue

 Bringing youth into UfM networks for sectorial action: as a first experience, the UfM Secretariat has promoted youth initiatives in favor of climate action and supported different youth led initiatives in the framework of COP 22, COP 23 and Cop 24 such as the Mediterranean Youth Climate Network, Mediterranean Intelligence and Public Affairs Institute (MIPAI) and Young Water Solutions (YWS).

In 2019, the Secretariat will continue to support initiatives and networks aiming at enhancing youth involvement on climate action and water agenda and will extend this



approach to other relevant sectors of the UfM Secretariat's mandate, in particular employment and empowerment.

- Promoting dialogue and exchange between youth around specific and common subjects such as economic networks, culture, sports, art, civic engagement... This dialogue and exchange would include young students, young leaders, youth networks and young people from both shores of the Mediterranean and can also include public authorities and institutions.
- The UfM Secretariat is currently supporting a number of youth fora and youth-led activities, while identifying new relevant youth led projects and initiatives with a regional dimension.

The UfM Secretariat builds on these youth led initiatives to exchange views with the regional stakeholders including with representatives of ministries responsible for youth matters, with local authorities, international cooperation agencies as well as representatives of youth NGOs.

- In 2019, the UfM Secretariat will support several youth initiatives which will help shape the future programme in 2019-2020. These initiatives will include, but will not be limited to:
 - ✓ UfM simulation programs in partnership with schools and universities in the Euro Mediterranean region. Similar programs will grow into structured platforms that engage young pupils in discussing key issues of concern to their generation and exchange around promising opportunities in the Mediterranean.
 - ✓ Facilitate the <u>launching a special platform on water and youth</u> in cooperation with World youth water parliament and other youth institutions.
 - ✓ Supporting youth led actions during major Mediterranean events. This could include twinning activities between youngsters and volunteers from different UfM countries.

ii. Promoting Regional Projects and Initiatives

Developing Partnerships

The UfM launched in 2018 the 1st Youth Forum for the Mediterranean, held in Tarragona from 7 to 9 July in the framework of the XVIII Mediterranean Games. It brought together 45 Mediterranean young leaders from 20 countries. The Forum has provided the participants with a comprehensive knowledge on how to develop a regional cooperation project from its concept to its implementation. Each session had encouraged collective thinking and exchange of methods and good practices on regional partnerships and project development, by bridging youth-led organizations and platforms with regional cooperation actors, such as the UfM and some of its key partners. Given the success of this event, the UfM and the city of Tarragona are considering organizing the 2nd Youth Forum for the Mediterranean in 2019.



- In September 2018, the United Nations unveiled "Youth 2030", a strategy reflecting the UN's new commitment to working with and for young people. The UfM aims to support this strategy, by creating a partnership with the United Nations in particularly in fields concerning the Mediterranean Youth, as a follow-up to our previous exchanges with the UN special envoy on Youth.
- Taking into account several discussions that occurred in 2018, the UfM plans to establish partnerships with institutions such as Collège de Bruges, Université Euro-Méditerranéeenne de Fès, National Schools of administration and Euro-Mediterranean Diplomatic Academies to hold meetings, visits and seminars in the benefit of Euro-Mediterranean young diplomats.
- The UfM aspires to engage and develop partnerships with partners such as the European Union, UNESCO, North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, Anna Lindh Foundation and SIDA to contribute together in empowering Young people in the Mediterranean.
 Partnerships with all those Institutions could be held under many forms: Organization of joint meetings, labeling projects, approval of new MOU's etc.
- In addition, the UfM Secretariat will foster the participation of beneficiaries of the UfM labelled projects and of other relevant networks in these identified actions (i.e. 'Young Mediterranean Voices' of Anna Lindh Foundation and British Council or SwitchMed youth network for green entrepreneurs).
- <u>Youth Award for the Mediterranean</u>: in the period 2019-2020, the UfM Secretariat will launch a process for an 'UfM Youth Award' to promote new initiatives from youth entrepreneurs, social businesses, innovators in areas central to the UfM values and activities.

> Publishing the UFM guidelines for action in the Youth field of action.

The UfM will publish in 2019 a global document entitled: **"Our Youth, Our region: UfM guidelines for action / A UfM Positive Agenda for Future for Youth with Youth"**. This document will serve the UfM as a roadmap in the youth field in the coming years.





SECOND PART: STRENGTHENING REGIONAL INTEGRATION THROUGH CONNECTIVITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



2.1. TRANSPORT: Facilitating transport connectivity and mobility

Strategic objectives 2019-2020

Historically an area of exchanges and interconnections, the Euro-Mediterranean area holds an enormous potential in terms of regional integration. Facilitating the movements of goods and individuals in the region could significantly contribute to unleashing this potential, leading to increased prosperity and socio-economic development.

Acknowledging these opportunities and in accordance with the Ministerial Declaration on Transport (Brussels, 2013), and in preparation of the next UfM Ministerial Conference in this sector, to be held possibly in 2020, the UfM Secretariat is actively engaged in addressing the complex challenges facing the transport sector in the Euro-Mediterranean region through a holistic and integrated approach. The Secretariat is contributes to the development, through the UfM process, of a more efficient, integrated, interoperable and sustainable transport infrastructure network in the region, with the ultimate aim of contributing to further improving mobility and regional trade exchanges.

To this end, the UfM Secretariat promotes regional dialogue, bringing together regional key stakeholders in the transport sector. During the 2019-2020 period, the UfM Secretariat will build on its close cooperation with the European Commission and UfM Member States to effectively and comprehensively address Transport Connectivity in the Euro-Mediterranean region. In this context, the Secretariat will work, in coordination with the Co-Presidency, particularly in the frame of the UfM-isation of activities related to Transport cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region, for the preparation of the next Transport Ministerial in follow-up to the 2013 Ministerial Declaration. The agreed Common Approach document defines, among other things, how to deliver on the 2013 Ministerial mandate in view of the next Ministerial Conference.

As announced in the 2017 Work Programme and reaffirmed both in the 2017 Roadmap for Action and the 2018 Work Programme, the UfM Secretariat aims to finalise in 2019 a comprehensive strategy on land, maritime and air transport and logistics connectivity for the Mediterranean, in particular, for connecting the network with funding instruments and involving the private sector, which will be discussed at the Platform and Ad Hoc SOM, and submitted for approval to the SOM.

Moreover, during the 2019-2020 period, the UfM Secretariat, through the foreseen UfM Regional Platform on Transport and its Working Groups (WGs), will step up its support to the development of transport projects in the Mediterranean, with particular emphasis on strengthening knowledge and professional skills in the sector through capacity building activities.

In order to achieve these objectives, the UfM Secretariat prioritised the following fields of action for the 2019-2020 period:



- Pursue the development of a regional transport network and the implementation of its harmonised regulatory framework guided by a Regional Transport Action Plan,
- Support projects with structuring and regional long-term impact,
- Connect with financing instruments, in particular those of IFIs.

In its efforts to contribute to the 2030 Agenda, the activities of the UfM Secretariat in the field of transport aim to achieve SDG 9: "*Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*" and SDG 13 to "*Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*". Furthermore, transport-related targets are included in eight out of the seventeen SDGs (2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14), illustrating the cross-cutting role that this field has in human and sustainable development. In particular, questions related to **gender equality and women empowerment** (SDG 5), **environment and blue economy** (SDG 3 and 14), **energy efficiency** (SDG 7) and **climate action** (SDG 13) will be integrated and mainstreamed in all the activities of the UfM Secretariat in the Transport sector in 2019.

2019 specific objectives

In line with its mandate, and based on this extensive background and preparatory work, the UfM Secretariat will aim to achieve, as of **2019**, the following **specific objectives**:

- Implementation of the UfM working methodology and governance structure: The UfM Regional Platform on Transport and its WGs;
- Evaluation of the state-of-play in the implementation and outcomes of the RTAP 2014-2020: The UfM Regional Platform on Transport and its WGs;
- Progress on the approval of the future South-South Mediterranean Network and its connection with the TEN-T.
- Elaboration, and eventual adoption, of the priority guidelines for the envisaged UfM Strategy on Transport Connectivity, focusing in particular on the financing strategy as an integral part of the comprehensive strategy.
- Monitoring of the labelled projects, also identification, and exploration, particularly with key
 regional and international partner organizations, of the development and possible labelling of
 new regional projects and initiatives, with particular emphasis on strengthening knowledge
 and professional skills in the sector through capacity building activities;
- Participation in the 2019 Summit of the International Transport Forum (ITF/OECD) on "Transport Connectivity for Regional Integration", which will take place in Leipzig on 22-24 May 2019, as well as in the ITF Consultation Day with International Organizations, which will be held in Paris on 24 January 2019, for the preparation of the 2019 Summit;
- Co-organization of joint activities with relevant international and regional organizations, building on consolidated UfM partnerships;
- Exploration of the possibility of building strategic partnerships with other key international stakeholders;



Conduct of studies: i) a study on the contribution of enhanced transport connectivity to regional integration and convergence in the Mediterranean region, ii) a study on the state-ofplay in the financing of regional transport infrastructure projects in the region.

Background

The "Euromed" dialogue on transport

The Declaration of the **2013 UfM Transport Ministerial Conference** reaffirmed the importance of the **Euro-Mediterranean transport cooperation**, which is founded on the two complementary pillars of "**regulatory reform**" and "**convergence**", in maritime, road, rail, civil aviation and urban transport sectors. The Ministers endorsed the development of the **Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network (TMN-T)**⁷ and its connection with the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). They also defined the priorities of a **Regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean Region** (**RTAP**) **2014-2020**, and mandated the EuroMed Transport Forum for its implementation.

The **EuroMed Transport Forum** and **its thematic Working Groups** (WGs) coordinate and monitor the implementation of the RTAP.⁸ The UfM Secretariat assisted the European Commission in the conduct of the meetings of the Forum and its WGs between 2010-2018. The Forum has been operational under the UfM umbrella since the First UfM WG Meeting on Land Transport, which was held on 8 October 2018.

The renewed mandate: The "UfM-isation" of the Euro-Mediterranean transport cooperation

At the October 2016 Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), the UfM Co-Presidency invited the UfM Secretariat to explore, in coordination with the EU and other UfM partners, ways of bringing the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the transport sector under the UfM umbrella, in order to address, effectively and comprehensively, transport connectivity in the region.

The 2017 UfM Roadmap for Action endorsed the **"UfM-isation" of the Euro-Mediterranean transport cooperation** and envisaged a more comprehensive **UfM Strategy on transport,** focusing, in particular, on connecting the network with funding instruments and involving the private sector.

The agreed Common Approach

In December 2017, the UfM Co-Presidency and the UfM Secretariat agreed on a **"Common Approach"** on how to address, under the umbrella of the UfM, complex challenges in the transport sector, and on how to implement the objectives of the 2013 UfM Ministerial Conference and the Roadmap.

In this context, the first **UfM Ad Hoc SOM on Transport** was held in Barcelona on 30 January 2018. It approved the UfM-isation of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Cooperation through the **UfM**

⁷ The South-South Mediterranean Transport Network

⁸ In addition to UfM Member States, various stakeholders, such as the Group of Transport Ministers of the Western Mediterranean (GTMO 5+5)/Centre for Transportation Studies for the Western Mediterranean (CETMO), the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), and the IFIs (EIB, WB, EBRD, etc.) have also been closely associated with this technical dialogue.



governance structure, based on the UfM Regional Platform on Transport and its four WGs on land, maritime and air transport as well as logistics. It examined ways to deliver on the 2013 Ministerial Conference objectives. It discussed elements for the envisaged UfM Strategy on Transport with a view to its adoption by the SOM and subsequently to the organization of a UfM Transport Ministerial Conference. It concluded that preparatory work for the next UfM Transport Ministerial Conference would include recommendations on how to:

- Conduct the *evaluation process*, underway at the UfM Regional Platform and the WGs, *on the implementation of the Regional Transport Action Plan 2014-2020*;
- Elaborate the elements of a more comprehensive **UfM Transport Connectivity Strategy**, in particular, those on connecting the TMN-T with funding instruments and involving the private sector.

Under the Common Approach, other key deliverables and preparatory work for the next UfM Transport Ministerial, linked to the **interconnectivity issue**, are:

- The development of the future South-South Mediterranean Transport Network (TMN-T) and its connection with the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T);
- The identification of a **list of priority projects** located within the TMN-T and its connection with the TEN-T, and **relevant financial and technical support actions**.
 - i. <u>Promoting Regional Dialogue</u>
- Implementation of the UfM working methodology and governance structure: The UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity and its Working Groups

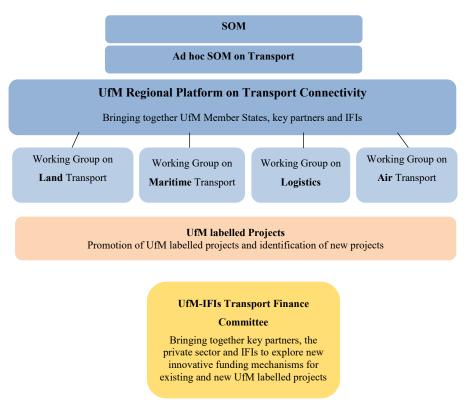


Figure 1: Working Structure



The 2013 Ministerial Declaration set the frame for action. Its mandate, including the development of the envisaged UfM Strategy, will be carried out by the UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity. The Platform will technically validate the content to be prepared by the thematic WGs on land, maritime and air transport, also on logistics. The meetings will be chaired by the UfM Co-Presidency, in coordination with and with the support of the UfM Secretariat.

The four thematic WGs will also act as steering committees for the respective EuroMed Transport projects that support the Southern Mediterranean UfM Member States in their implementation of the RTAP. Most of these projects are implemented by the EU Transport Agencies (EMSA, ERA, EASA)⁹, which, in addition to other relevant organizations, will be closely involved in the work of these WGs.

The UfM-IFIs Transport Finance Committee, to be chaired by the UfM Secretariat in coordination with, and with the support of the UfM Co-Presidency, will bring together key partners, the private sector and IFIs to explore new funding mechanisms for existing and new UfM-labelled projects.

As a concrete step towards the UfM-isation of Euro-Mediterranean transport cooperation, the first meeting of the UfM Working Group on Land Transport was held in Brussels on 8 October 2018.

As of 2019, the following activities will be conducted under the UfM dialogue on Transport cooperation:

- A first cluster of meetings, including an inaugural meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity, as well as meetings of the four dedicated thematic WGs and the UfM-IFIs Transport Project Committee, is to be organised possibly in the first quarter of 2019;
- A second set of Regional Platform/WGs/UfM-IFIs Project Committee meetings, is to be organised in the third quarter of 2019;
- The outcomes of the UfM Regional Platform and its thematic WGs will be submitted to Ad Hoc SOMs on Transport and to subsequent SOMs, for their approval and endorsement;
- The next UfM Ministerial Conference on Transport could possibly be held in 2020.

These meetings will take place under the UfM working methodology and governance structure to discuss:

- The **state-of-play in the implementation** of the mandate of the 2013 UfM Ministerial Conference on Transport, including the:
 - Implementation of activities under the Regional Transport Action Plan (RTAP 2014-2020);
 - Evaluation of the progress made under the RTAP 2014-2020.
- Priorities and deliverables envisaged for the next UfM Ministerial Conference on Transport;

⁹ EMSA: European Maritime Safety Agency

ERA: European Union Agency for Railways

EASA: European Aviation Safety

Agency



- The way forward in the run-up to the next Ministerial Conference, including the development of:
 - The UfM Strategy on Transport Connectivity and the UfM 2030 Transport Agenda;
 - The proposed process and suggested strategic axes;
 - The outcomes of the study titled "UfM Strategy on Transport Connectivity".
- Regional transport projects already labelled
 - Review of the projects currently labelled;
 - Process for new projects to be labelled by the UfM.

All these elements will contribute to the preparation of the next UfM Ministerial Conference on Transport.

> Evaluation of the state-of play in the implementation of and progress in the RTAP 2014-2020

The **evaluation process of the RTAP 2014-2020** will aim to assess the outcomes of all actions proposed under the RTAP in the land (road and rail), maritime and air (civil aviation) transport as well as logistics sectors. The evaluation will also identify the main problematic issues related to this process. The evaluation report will reflect the views of the UfM Member States concerned. It will also indicate how to better implement the prospective UfM Transport Strategy and the UfM 2030 Transport Agenda.

The evaluation report, which will be elaborated by an external consultant, will be based on:

- A thorough desk research, including final reports submitted and country presentations made at previous WG meetings;
- A written consultation with all countries through National Coordinators;
- Country visits, as necessary;
- Or a UfM Regional Platform meeting.

The evaluation report will lay out:

- The progress achieved;
- The main difficulties encountered by the countries in implementation;
- The financial and technical assistance used;
- Recommendations to improve the implementation until 2020, and
- The definition of priorities for the future UfM Strategy.

EuroMed projects and partner organizations (CETMO¹⁰, REMPEC¹¹, etc.) will also be consulted. Ownership of the whole evaluation process will remain with the UfM Member States, given that the final report will reflect the evaluation and recommendations of the UfM Regional Platform on Transport.

¹⁰ CETMO: The Centre for Transportation Studies for the Western Mediterranean

¹¹ REMPEC: The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea



Elaboration, and eventual adoption, of the priority guidelines for the envisaged UfM Strategy on Transport Connectivity

As for the **priority guidelines of the UfM Strategy on Transport**, the following axes will be explored:

- *People* Introduce new focus on end-user benefits by:
 - Strengthening and modernizing the institutional structures (notably on human resources);
 - Making transport in the Mediterranean safer and sustainable. In this regard, enhancing the inclusion of cross-cutting issues related to transport, such as energy efficiency, climate change and environment;
 - Encouraging appropriate initiatives in the field of research.
- *Regulations* Maintain the existing momentum in regulatory convergence and ensure a smooth and efficient flow of people and goods by:
 - Removing all non-physical barriers to the mobility of people and goods, promoting future interoperability and introducing advanced IT systems on the South-North and South-South networks in all transport modes and favouring inter-modality and co-modality;
 - Enhancing Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the relevant international fora and encouraging the ratification and implementation of international conventions on transport.
- Infrastructure Upon approval of the future South-South Mediterranean Transport Network (TMN-T) and its connection with the TEN-T by UfM Member States, the focus will shift to implementing priority projects and creating sustainable financing mechanisms by:
 - Compiling a list of priority projects of common interest following an agreement on the South-South Mediterranean Transport Network (TMN-T) and its connection with the TEN-T;
 - Securing reliable and sufficient financing for investments in transport infrastructure through better coordination with, and linkage to, existing funding mechanisms (CEF¹², EIP¹³, etc.), also through better involvement of private investors and promotion of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

With a view to lay the groundwork for discussions on the "Infrastructure" element of the new UFM Strategy, a **study** will be conducted **on the state-of-play in the financing of** the **projects** already submitted to the UfM-IFIs Transport Project Committee, also in that of other regional Transport infrastructure projects undertaken by the European Commission and IFIs. The study will collate all the available information and analyse that compilation in a systematic and integrated manner to indicate the way forward for the UfM-IFIs Transport Project Committee work on the financing of the infrastructure projects.

ii. <u>Promoting Regional Projects and Initiatives</u>

a. Monitoring of labelled projects/initiatives

¹² CEF: Connecting Europe Facility

¹³ EIP: External Investment Plan



As of 2019, the UfM Secretariat will continue to closely monitor and follow-up on the developments regarding the implementation of all UfM-labelled transport projects, namely the LOGISMED Training Activities (LOGISMED-TA) Project, Completion of the Central Section of the Trans-Maghreb Motorway Axis Project, Jordan National Railway Project (JNRP), Motorway of the Sea (MoS) Turkey-Italy-Tunisia Project, OPTIMED Implementation Project and the TransLogMED Project, and to encourage key and relevant IFIs as well as cooperation agencies to support those projects within the UfM governance set-up.

In this regard, the envisaged UfM–IFIs Transport Project Committee meeting might offer an opportunity to discuss the projects' financial framework, which will complement the bilateral contacts conducted so far with the IFIs.

Updated project status reports will be maintained throughout 2019. This monitoring process could eventually entail terminating/closing-out inactive projects, as appropriate.

For **LOGISMED Training Activities (LOGISMED-TA)**[link], all foreseen project activities were fully implemented in the beneficiary countries by the end of 2018. The UfM Secretariat will participate in the closing Steering Committee Meeting of the project, which will be held possibly in the first quarter of 2019.

For the **"Motorway of the Sea (MoS) Turkey-Italy-Tunisia Project"** [link], the field visit conducted by the UfM Secretariat in May 2017 revealed the difficulties regarding the project's financing and implementation calendar, as well as the promoter's technical shortcomings. Despite the difficulties, the project promoter agreed to further explore the possibility of conducting a market study as a first and essential step to complete the final design of the MoS services. The UfM Secretariat is awaiting the results of the market study. A second field visit will be held as of 2019 to re-assess with the promoter possibilities for the implementation of the project.

For the **"OPTIMED IMPLEMENTATION: Towards a new Mediterranean Corridor: from South-Eastern to North-Western ports"** project [link], following the field visit of the UfM Secretariat, the promoter submitted a proposal to facilitate the implementation. The proposal included two new actions, namely: i) running a series of tests "at sea", and ii) identifying and implementing the minimum improvements needed at the level of the ports of Porto Torres and Beirut to conduct the tests and allow for an early start of the new maritime service. A second field visit is foreseen as of 2019 to re-assess with the promoter the technical and financial feasibility of the newly proposed actions.

For the **"TransLogMED for 'Training actions supporting the implementation of sustainable transport and logistics chains and intermodal solutions in the Mediterranean region'** project [link], following its launch in Ismailia, Egypt, on 8 May 2018, project activities, namely awareness-raising conferences and training courses, were undertaken in Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria. In The UfM Secretariat will continue to monitor, as of 2019, the second round of training activities foreseen in these beneficiary countries as well as the inaugural conferences and courses to take place in Egypt and Jordan.

b. Development of the project pipeline

As of 2019, the UfM Secretariat, through the UfM Regional Platform and its WGs, will work on identifying and developing new projects to be labelled by the UfM, particularly projects concerning



capacity-building activities in the land transport and maritime transport sectors, relating to road safety and urban transport on a regional scale, as well as projects regarding North-South and South-South maritime links.

Within this process, the possibility of labelling regional projects tackling cross-cutting issues related to transport –such as energy efficiency, climate change and environment, will also be explored.

c. Other Initiatives and horizontal activities

Within the framework of the MoU concluded with the International Transport Forum (ITF/OECD) in January 2018, the UfM Secretariat will participate in the **2019 Summit of the International Transport Forum** that will take place in Leipzig in May 2019. The summit will address **"Transport Connectivity for Regional Integration"**, which is particularly relevant to the UfM mandate. The annual ITF/OECD Summit gathers Transport Ministers from around the world, key international organizations, IFIs, and the private sector, as well as parliamentarians and academics. It is a valuable opportunity for the UfM Secretariat to exchange knowledge, build on existing synergies and explore opportunities for cooperation with potential partners and stakeholders. In preparation for the ITF 2019 Summit, the UfM Secretariat will participate in the Consultation Day to be held in January 2019 at the OECD Conference Centre in Paris. The purpose of this preparatory meeting is to engage in a dialogue with ITF and other key international organizations on the most significant issues that should be addressed at the 2019 Summit.

Also under the above-mentioned MoU, the UfM Secretariat will launch, as of 2019, a **study** in collaboration with the ITF/OECD on **the role of transport connectivity in promoting regional integration and convergence in the Mediterranean region.** The results of study will serve as a basis for the UfM Secretariat's contribution to the Summit discussions. In addition, the study will lay the groundwork for factual discussions on the implementation of the current Regional Transport Action Plan and the evolving comprehensive strategy on transport, including the funding strategy, within the UfM Regional Platform and its WGs.

Additional meetings/workshops will be organized by the UfM Secretariat as of 2019 with other partner institutions, such as CETMO and Escola Europea de Short Sea Shipping, to exchange experiences and good practices in the transport sector.

In this respect, the UfM Secretariat will organize the **international conference "Motorways of the Sea in the Western Mediterranean"** in Barcelona in April 2019, together with the MedPorts Association, InterMed Gateways, CETMO, and the Escola Europea-Intermodal Transport, which is the promoter of the UfM-labelled "TransLogMED" project. The Conference will address, among other topics, the capacity of the shipping sector to respond to the current and future demands for "greener" vessels, the integration of the land and maritime transport networks in the Western Mediterranean and beyond, and the development and extension of the existing and future transport corridors.

Finally, the UfM will explore the possibility of **building strategic partnerships** with other key international stakeholders in the transport sector (such as UNECE, UNCTAD, IMO, the Arab League, the African Union, international development cooperation agencies, the World Bank Group (WBG), EIB, EBRD, the African Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, as well as with the EU-China Connectivity Platform), with the aim of engaging them in the UfM dialogue



structure on Transport, as well as in the development of joint activities either connected directly to the transport field or to cross-cutting issues, such as energy efficiency, climate change and environment.



2.2. URBAN DEVELOPMENT: Promoting sustainable and integrated urban development

Strategic objectives 2018-2020

More than 60% of the total population in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean region is below the age of 25, making it one of the most youthful regions in the world. A direct consequence of population growth is rapid urbanization. Hence the strong urban transformation that is underway in the Mediterranean region.

Almost 60% of the total population is already living in urban areas. The distribution of urban pressure is extremely uneven. By 2030, nearly 80% of the Southern Mediterranean population will be concentrated in just 10% of the land, predominantly in coastal areas, with all the environmental costs of urbanization. This pressing reality calls for a bottom-up approach and regionally applicable solutions as well as the mobilization of all actors to address an increasing number of demographic, socio-economic, environmental and technological challenges both at local and regional levels.

In response to these challenges and on the basis of the mandate set by the Second Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development (Cairo, 2017), the UfM Secretariat will promote a sustainable, innovative and integrated urban development agenda, 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. Indeed, sustainable development depends to a great extent on sustainable urban development, and urbanization has the potential to enhance prosperity and well-being.

In order to realize these objectives, the UfM Secretariat prioritized the following fields of action for the 2018-2020 period:

- Regional policy dialogue,
- Development of innovative and sustainable projects,
- Coordination with key regional partners in particular with financial institutions.

The UfM Roadmap for Action, the "Union for the Mediterranean Urban Agenda" (22 May 2017), and the "Organization and Working Methodology" established by the First UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development (9 November 2017), constitute the bases of the UfMS work in this field.

The UfM operates also within relevant global policy frameworks, including: the 2030 Agenda, and contributes to SDG 11: *Making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*. It also works in the lines of the "New Urban Agenda", which provides guidance for achieving this goal, including for actions to address climate change; the "Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing Development"; the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030"; and the "Paris Agreement on Climate Change".



Furthermore, questions related to gender equality and women empowerment (SDG 5), reducing inequalities in the region (SDG 10) and environment and climate action (SDG 13) will be mainstreamed throughout the UfMS action in this priority area.

2019 specific objectives

In 2019, the UfMS will continue to focus on:

- Implementing the mandate of the Second UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development (Cairo, 21-22 May 2017), on the basis of the conclusions of the First UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development (Brussels, 9 November 2017),
- Enhancing the implementation of the UfM-labelled urban development projects as well as the identification of new projects and regional initiatives to be labelled,
 Consolidation of partnerships with relevant international and regional organizations and institutions,

within available resources.

ii. <u>Promoting Regional Dialogue</u>

Second meetings of the UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development and the UfM-IFIs Urban Project Committee will provide recommendations for the UfM Senior Officials (SOs) to pave the way for the Third UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development, which is due to be held, in principle, as of 2019. In this context, two Thematic Working Groups (WGs) will prepare their respective draft Action Plans on "affordable and sustainable housing" and "urban regeneration". In view of the outputs of the Thematic WGs, the Permanent WG will develop performance and production indicators as well as regional conversion criteria for evidence-based overall urban and territorial development. The UfM-IFIs Urban Project Committee will assess the funding possibilities of initial projects identified by the Thematic WGs.

The outputs of the WGs will be presented to the Second UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development. The recommendations of the Regional Platform, and those of the UfM-IFIs Urban Project Committee, will be submitted to the UfM SOs for the evaluation of the progress made in the implementation of the UfM Urban Agenda. The SOs will then make a proposal to the UfM Ministers in charge of sustainable urban development on possible future actions. The UfM Ministers concerned agreed on 22 May 2017 to reconvene, in principle, in two years to review progress on the development of the UfM Urban Agenda.

> Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development

The UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development and its WGs, along with the UfM-IFIs Urban Project Committee, constitute the operational framework for action. There are two "Thematic WGs" established for the period of 2018-2019, and one "Permanent WG". Those WGs are the "UfM Thematic Working Group on Affordable and Sustainable Housing", "UfM Thematic



Working Group on Urban Regeneration", and the "UfM Permanent Working Group on Monitoring and Reporting on the Advancement of the Urban Dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda."

The Thematic WGs will develop their theme-specific Action Plans and regional convergence criteria. Each Action Plan will elaborate, *inter alia*:

- Policy guidelines, including concrete actions to improve the implementation of policy frameworks and regulations and narrow policy gaps at regional level,
- Funding opportunities, along with a list of available financial resources, and
- Implementing projects, indicating emerging designs that could be operationalized in line with the objectives of the Action Plan.

The two Action Plans will identify regional priorities, in view of those of UfM Member States, the EC and main stakeholders, including relevant UN and international development agencies as well as IFIs, to enhance the feasibility and bankability of potential UfM-labelled projects.

The Permanent WG on Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting will help improve evaluation, monitoring and reporting systems on sustainable urban development at regional level. Its work will involve national statistical offices.

The WGs will also help identify, among other things, initial projects that could be submitted to the UfM-IFIs Project Committee for the evaluation of their feasibility and bankability with potential donors and IFIs.

Once all the WGs conclude their deliberations, the Second UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development Regional Platform will convene, as soon as possible, to review the Action Plans as well as the performance indicators and regional convergence criteria, to adopt the Report on the Implementation of the Mediterranean Urban Dimension of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, including for submission to the United Nations, and to identify work topics for the 2020-2021 Thematic Working Groups.

- UfM Thematic Working Group on Affordable and Sustainable Housing

The first meeting of the UfM Thematic WG on Affordable and Sustainable Housing was held in Brussels on 20-21 September 2018. The WG identified main elements of the draft UfM Action Plan on Affordable and Sustainable Housing, which will be elaborated and finalized at its subsequent meetings to be held as of 2019 for submission to the next UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development. The mandate of the Working Group encompasses the issue of sustainable housing, which covers, *inter alia*, energy-efficiency in buildings, in addition to sustainable consumption and production in building construction.

The Second, and, if necessary, Third UfM Thematic WG Meetings on Affordable and Sustainable Housing will be held to finalize the relevant Action Plan as of 2019.



- UfM Thematic Working Group on Urban Regeneration

The First and Second Meetings of the UfM Thematic WG on Urban Regeneration will be held to draft the Action Plan on Urban Regeneration. The First Meeting of this Thematic WG will set the scene for the elaboration of the UfM Action Plan on Urban Regeneration, which will be finalized at its Second Meeting.

External support will be sought, replicating the successful working methodology of the Thematic WG on Affordable and Sustainable Housing, to assist the UfMS in developing and managing the technically complex knowledge base, which needs to be built for the deliberations of the UfM Thematic WG on Urban Regeneration on the relevant regional convergence criteria and Action Plan. External support is needed to lay the groundwork on topics such as the quality of public space, regeneration of historical centres, industrial areas, harbour areas and maritime fronts, urban upgrading of informal residential developments and deprived urban areas, value capture, expropriations, land readjustment, enforcement of planning decisions and management of big urban renewal projects. The Working Group will also address transversal issues, such as water and urban development, urban forests or safe cities and safe public spaces for women.

- <u>UfM Permanent Working Group on Monitoring and Reporting on the Advancement of the Urban</u> <u>Dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda</u>

The First and the Second Meetings of the UfM Permanent WG on Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting will be held in due time during 2019.

Collaboration will be sought with UN-Habitat and the JRC/REGIO Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies, replicating the methodology put in place for monitoring the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda in EU and African countries. This work will be based on the UN-Habitat City Prosperity Initiative, a platform to measure the implementation of urban sustainable development goals, and on the ongoing work of the JRC/REGIO Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies on the production indicators to support the promotion of evidence-based integrated urban and territorial development and on the production of future scenarios using modelling techniques to assist stakeholders in defining alternative future scenarios.

> UfM-IFIs Urban Project Committee

The Second Meeting of the UfM-IFIs Urban Project Committee will be held to evaluate the funding possibilities of projects identified during previously-held Thematic WG meetings.

iii. Promoting Regional Projects and Initiatives

a. Monitoring of labelled projects/initiatives

The Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI), launched in 2014, is a financial initiative funded by the European Commission, and co-managed by the Agence Française de Développement Union for the Mediterranean الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

(AFD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB), under the auspices of the UfM. The UPFI aims to identify and select sustainable urban development projects that could be implemented in the short term.

The UPFI initiative offers grants for project preparation to help project promoters define sound urban development projects, ensuring access to finance for implementation in the EU's Southern Neighbourhood. Nine countries are beneficiaries of the UPFI: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Turkey. The duration for the identification of projects and launching of technical assistances for project preparation ended on 30 June 2018. All the ongoing UPFI technical assistances for project preparation will be concluded by December 2019. The UPFI Steering Committee is composed of EIB, AFD, European Commission, along with the UfM as observer. The Committee meets approximately twice a year. The UPFI currently supports five UfM-labelled urban projects (in chronological order):

- The Imbaba Urban Upgrading Project (Egypt), labelled on 2 June 2014, aims to strengthen the integration of Imbaba, one of the most populated areas in Egypt, with the Greater Cairo Area, by providing 700.000 inhabitants of Imbaba with basic facilities, infrastructure and services. The project is currently under implementation.
- The Project for the Development of the Taparura Seafront in Sfax (Tunisia), labelled on 4 December 2014, aims to create a new mixed-use urban neighbourhood, and to reconnect the city of Sfax to its coastline. The Technical Assistance line extended for project preparation was closed in June 2018. The implementation will start once all the necessary conditions are fulfilled.
- The Bouregreg Valley Development Project (Morocco), labelled on 24 May 2015, aims to develop the valley so as to enable the banks of the Bouregreg river to be reclaimed, and to provide the agglomeration with a high-quality urban zone, in view of the fact that the metropolitan area of Rabat-Salé-Témara, the second biggest in Morocco in terms of population and economy, is divided by the Bouregreg Valley. The promoter is currently readjusting the project according to current needs. Technical Assistance for project preparation is underway.
- The Multi-Site Urban Regeneration Project in Jericho (Palestine), labelled on 1 June 2016, aims to improve living conditions of the inhabitants of Jericho by reorganizing and upgrading major public and leisure facilities and expanding the city's green spaces. Implementation work commenced in October 2017, and will be completed in 2019.
- The İzmir Urban Integrated Waste Management Project (Turkey), labelled on 14 October 2016, aims to provide high-quality integrated solid waste management for İzmir at a critical time when İzmir's current solid waste landfill facility is reaching its full capacity. The project will showcase an exemplary, innovative and environmentally-friendly urban infrastructure approach when completed. The project is currently on hold due to a juridical problem.



The Euro-Mediterranean Smart City Innovation Centres Project, labelled on 20 September 2018, aims to develop and implement Smart City Innovation Centres in three Southern Mediterranean cities, which are members of the Euromed Cities Network, namely, the City of Fes in Morocco, City of Tunis in Tunisia, and the Governorate of Alexandria in Egypt. The project foresees partial funding from the Global Environment Fund (GEF), through UNIDO. The implementation of the project will start once the financial scheme is put in place.

The UfM Secretariat will actively follow-up on the state-of-play of UfM-labelled projects, including their respective financial schemes, in close consultation and cooperation with project promoters, during both the preparatory and the implementation phases.

Updated project status reports will be maintained throughout 2019. Project status reports will contain a summary of changes to the project's scope, if any, and show how actual completion dates for project milestones and costs accrued compared with the latest version of the project schedule and budget. This monitoring process could eventually entail terminating/closing-out inactive projects, as appropriate.

b. Development of the project pipeline

> UPFI-ERI

The UPFI initiative, in its current shape and form, will be phased out in December 2019. Therefore, the UfM welcomed the allocation of 4.5M€ in December 2017 within the context of the European Investment Bank's (EIB) Economic Resilience Initiative (ERI), for funding new Technical Assistances for urban development project preparation in Balkan as well as Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries within the framework of a new edition of UPFI for the period of 2018-2020.

In May 2017, the EIB Board of Directors approved up to 90M€ for ERI Technical Assistances to support the preparation and implementation of projects. In December 2017, the EIB approved the use of part of that funding, 4.5M€, to support the preparation of projects contributing to the urban dimension of the ERI initiative, naming it UPFI-ERI. The new UPFI-ERI, funded by the EIB and comanaged by the EIB and AFD, brings together the two initiatives and represents the continuation of the UPFI, enlarging its geographical scope. The UPFI-ERI Steering Committee is formed by the EIB, AFD, the European Commission, along with the UfMS as observer.

UPFI-ERI will be available in two regions until 2020: The Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia), and the EU's Southern Neighbourhood (Algeria, Egypt, Gaza/West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia). All countries within the UPFI-ERI geographical scope could benefit from the initiative under the principle of "first come, first served". The UfM Secretariat will continue to participate in the UPFI Steering Committee meetings, held twice a year, that review UPFI and UPFI-ERI progress, and ensure coordination between the UPFI and UPFI-ERI.

The prospective meetings of the WGs of the UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development, and those of the UfM-IFIs Urban Project Committee, could pave the way for the



launch of new projects, initially in the fields of "sustainable and affordable urban housing" and "urban regeneration", in line with respective priorities and policy frameworks of countries, IFIs and donors, including with the support of Technical Assistances rendered under the UPFI-ERI.

Fact-finding missions will be organized, if and when possible, to UfM Member States to elaborate on potentially bankable project proposals for UfM-labelling, in view of prospective discussions on respective convergence criteria and Action Plans on urban housing and regeneration. Contacts will be initiated with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in this regard. Synergies will be sought with the work of EU delegations on urban development, already underway in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. To this end, a meeting will be organized, if possible, with the staff of relevant EU delegations, back-to-back with the annual EU Development Days.

c. Other initiatives and horizontal activities

Other initiatives and horizontal activities will be undertaken to enhance synergies with the international community in order to align UfM work with the international agenda, and to identify and establish key partnerships with relevant stakeholders, which could potentially contribute to the implementation of the UfM Urban Agenda. The UfM Secretariat will actively participate in major international and regional events, eventually co-organizing side events with key partners and stakeholders, to enhance synergies and share best practices.

United Nations

- UN-Habitat. The UfM Secretariat will deepen institutional collaboration with UN-Habitat, within the frameworks of the MoU signed in Barcelona in April 2016 and the partnership agreement concluded in Cairo in May 2017. Additionally, the UfM Secretariat will collaborate with UN-Women and UNDP, which co-signed, along with UN-Habitat, a joint letter of support in April 2018, for the implementation of the UfM Urban Agenda.
- UNESCO. The UfM Secretariat will explore modalities of working with UNESCO on the education and training of future architects and urban planners in UfM Member States, in liaison with the UfM Higher Education and Research Division.
 Building on the experience of UNESCO's cooperation with the National School of Architecture in Rabat, a project proposal to assess and compare the respective curricula of main schools of architecture in the Euro-Mediterranean region will be developed, as and when possible, in order to promote the inclusion in their programmes of the urban scale approach, disaster risk reduction and planning, heritage safeguarding, and energy efficiency in buildings.
- The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and particularly its Committee on Housing and Land Management, works closely with Balkan countries and plays a key role in Sustainable Housing and Real Estate Markets, Sustainable Urban Development, Land Administration and Management, and also compiles Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management. The UfM will collaborate with UNECE, to the extent possible, to enhance its role in urban development in the Balkan countries. A workshop



could eventually be co-organized with UNECE in this regard. The UfM Secretariat will also explore the possibility of establishing contacts between UNECE and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to work co-jointly with them in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

- OECD. The UfM Secretariat will participate in the meetings of the OECD Regional Development Policy Committee, the Working Party on Territorial Indicators, and those of the Working Party on Urban Policy. A major event for the UfM to attend will be the 3rd International Conference on National Urban Policies, which will be held in 2019. UN Habitat and OECD launched in 2016 the National Urban Policy Programme to support governments by developing technical capacity in designing and implementing urban policies, improving data collection and strengthening the evidence base on urban policy and planning, and by providing a networking platform on national urban policies for governments and other stakeholders.
- Synergies with the Urban Agenda for the EU, and with the Arab Strategy for Housing and Urban Development 2030. The UfMS will actively follow the work of various Partnerships of the Urban Agenda for the EU and its Expert Group on EU Urban Development. The UfMS will also participate in the Third Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development (AMFHUD3) to be hosted by the Government of UAE.
- Synergies with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Finland and France on energy-efficient buildings. The Global Alliance for Buildings and Constructions, launched at the COP21 in 2016, was initiated by France and UNEP to bring together the building and construction industry, countries and stakeholders to raise awareness and facilitate the global transition towards low-emission, energy-efficient buildings.

The One Planet Network-Sustainable Buildings and Construction Programme, led by Finland, UNEP and RMIT University, was launched during the UN-Habitat Governing Council in 2015. The Programme aims to promote resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation efforts, and the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns in the buildings and construction sector.

Complementarities between the Global Alliance for Building and Constructions and the One Planet Network- Sustainable Building and Construction Programme will be sought, through contacts in 2019, with a view to jointly promote common objectives in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Urban dimensions of sectoral activities conducted by other UfM Divisions will be closely followed to ensure overall coherence in the implementation of the "UfM Urban Agenda" and facilitate the exchange of good practices. Cross-cutting activities will include those on energy efficiency in buildings, sustainable consumption and production in building construction, coastal zone management, water and urban development, urban forests or safe cities and safe public spaces for women.



2.3. ENERGY: Enhancing energy connectivity and sustainable energy supply

Strategic objectives 2018-2020

The strategic objectives of the UfM in the field of energy follow the guidelines provided by the 2017 UfM Roadmap, namely on Chapters 3 and 4, as well as those agreed in the Ministerial Declaration on Energy (Rome, 2016), in particular focusing on integration of energy markets, suitable institutional and regulatory frameworks, through the promotion of capacity building and public awareness, the engagement of private sector, the mobilization of investments with positive impact for regional or national growth and, where relevant, stimulating the involvement of local authorities in the scaling up of renewable energies and energy efficiency solutions.

A stronger energy connectivity is essential to strengthen regional integration. A structured cooperation, at regional and sub-regional levels, namely through regional policy dialogue and concrete initiatives and projects, would decisively contribute to:

- 1. strengthen complementarities in the Mediterranean energy systems and markets,
- 2. foster interconnectivity,
- 3. enhance energy security, promote energy efficiency, namely trough activities, capacity building to fill existing gaps, and fight against climate change threats,
- 4. develop sustainable energy supplies and trade exchanges,
- 5. promote innovation and skills enhancement (through capacity building and sharing of experience)

thereby contributing to the sustainable development and socioeconomic integration of the region.

In order to reach those overall objectives, based on the continuous input and feedback from Member States, the UfM Secretariat has prioritized the following areas of action:

- deepening the level of cross work of the regional platforms,
- involvement of private sector and of local authorities,
- promotion of priority projects.

In a medium term perspective, in the 2016 UfM Ministerial Declaration, Ministers agreed "to reconvene in principle in two years to discuss the appropriate follow-up". Therefore, the UfM Secretariat will, pending guidance of the UfM Co-Presidency and of the SOM, work towards the preparation of a Ministerial Meeting on Energy during the period 2019.



Building on the success of the first experience in 2017, a second 'UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum' is envisaged to be held in 2019 to foster private sector involvement and stimulate projects in the region, increasing the relevance and participation of finance related main players in the region.

The activities of the UfM Secretariat in the field of energy are fully in line with the 2030 agenda and aim to provide a contribution in particular to SDG 7: *'Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all'*; as well as to SDG 9, 11 and 13. Furthermore, questions related to gender equality and women empowerment (SDG 5), reducing inequalities in the region (SDG 10) will be mainstreamed throughout the UfMS action in this priority area.

2019 specific objectives

In 2019, the UfM Secretariat will continue to work under the frame of the 2016 UfM Ministerial Conference on Energy and implement its specific actions, thereby paving the way towards the next Ministerial to be potentially foreseen in 2020. The UfM Secretariat will further pursue the promotion of renewable energy in the region, the development and implementation of energy efficiency action plans as well as the convergence of electricity markets, through the implementation of the work programs of the UfM Energy Platforms, stimulating the involvement of local authorities and private sector.

The UfM Secretariat will animate the structured regional dialogue within the three UfM Energy Platforms, promoting new initiatives and projects, tackling inter alia interconnectivity opportunities and promoting the engagement of private sector investment funds and PPPs (in relation with the UfM Regional Climate Finance Committee) and the enlargement of the dialogue towards stakeholders, including representatives of the energy-related industries, through the contacts with their national business associations.

Cooperation to co-organize activities with Members Countries institutional entities, directly supportive to the above referred objectives (such as the organization of the second UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum to be held in Portugal or the advancements towards a Regional Energy C business related associations Confederation) will be explored to optimize the UfM Secretariat intervention and to contribute and stimulate sectorial integration and cross actions with a UfM Euro-Mediterranean dimension.

More concretely, in 2019, the UfM Secretariat will focus on:

• paving the way towards the next UfM Ministerial Meeting on Energy (foreseen in 2020)

• the support to local authorities' efforts in energy efficiency and energy transition as well as the promotion of capacity building;

• a stronger involvement of the private sector, organizing the second UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum to be held in Portugal;

• the identification of flagship initiatives and projects falling under the above referred strategic objectives: interconnectivity, involvement of private sector, replication of best practices and promotion of its financing opportunities

• the follow-up of the implementation of labelled projects.



Promoting Regional Dialogue

The UfM Secretariat animates a structured regional dialogue, through the three UfM Energy Platforms (UfM Regional Electricity Markets Platform; UfM Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Platform; UfM Gas Platform), gathering UfM Members as well as international organizations, financial institutions and other public and private relevant stakeholders working in these fields.

1) Following the consolidation of the work programmes of the UfM Energy Platforms during 2018, the organization of Steering Committee with Stakeholders (mid-year review) is foreseen as well as an **annual joint meeting of the three platforms to be held at the beginning of 2019**, to ensure coherence and complementarity between activities, back-to-back with working sessions of each platform. As usual, the annual meeting will aim at reviewing the progress in the implementation of the respective work programmes of the UfM Energy Platforms, experience sharing and identifying concrete actions to develop regional cooperation in common areas of interest.

2) During 2019 we will start the preparation of <u>a major annual conference of the UfM Energy</u> <u>Platforms foreseen to be held early 2020</u> to start paving the way towards the next UfM Ministerial Meeting on Energy (potentially foreseen in 2020). This conference will be the opportunity to start the preparation of the Ministerial by assessing the overall work accomplished since December 2016 and debating the mid-term lines of action and strategy of the UfM Energy Platforms.

3) In 2018, the European Commission signed framework contracts with several main regional stakeholders to provide technical assistance to the UfM Energy Platforms' process. In this frame, besides OME, MEDREG and MEDTSO that renewed framework contracts, RCREEE and MEDENER have started the MEET MED project. In 2019, the <u>UfMS will follow these regional projects'</u> implementation, by attending workings sessions, contributing to reports and analysis, and overseeing technical contribution to policy dialogue process with the support of the UfM Co-<u>Presidency</u>.

4) As part of the preparation towards the next UfM Ministerial Meeting on Energy, in 2020, the UfMS will work on the establishment of a common energy database for non-EU UfM member states based on the assessment of the REEE and REM developments regarding regulatory and technical regulations in the 14 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean UfM member states delivered in 2018 by UfMS. It aims to capitalize outputs and reports related to REEE and REM thematics in the region. The database will be online and connected to the UfMS website and it will gather all reports and data developed by regional stakeholders in the frame their agreement with the EU Co-Presidency (EC).

Moreover, in order to provide technical support to the UfM Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REEE) Platform, the UfMS will seek to identify a partnership with relevant Institutional partner to launch a study on Regional Readiness for Energy transition in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean with an objective to initiate an action driven process to identify opportunities, gaps, and limits to the energy transition in the region, and explore benefits of regional cooperation. In order to provide technical support to the UfM Regional Electricity Market Platform (REM), the UfM



regarding the discussion on Projects of Common Interest access methodology may host an adhocmeeting under the UfM REM Platform with technical inputs of MEDREG and MEDTSO.

UfM stakeholders increasingly perceive energy efficiency of products and in buildings as a major priority of energy policy. Following the discussions on this topic held at the annual meeting of the three platforms in January 2018 and at a workshop organized in Brussels in October 2018 by the Commission, MEDENER and RCREEE, an ad-hocgroup on energy efficient cooling will be set up under the REEE Platform, during 2019 Annual Platforms meeting.

The UfMS will also start preparing an external assessment of the UfM Energy Platforms to be delivered in 2020. This assessment will be based on the frame of the current state analysis delivered in 2019 and will be a deliverable joining the Ministerial declaration 2020 and aiming at identifying potential synergies and common objectives regarding energy policies and priorities, in the context of energy transition scenarios. Taking into account the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, this assessment will be linked to the NDCs undergoing process in every country the ongoing UfM study related to NDCs ("Regional Analysis of study on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)") shall be a reference)

UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum

In 2019, UfM will continue to work for implementing the outcomes of the first **UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum** (held in 2017) with a special focus on the **involvement of the private sector in the UfM Energy Platforms** by developing public- private partnerships; working towards the creation of a Regional Energy Business Associations Confederation in order to have a higher participation of private sector in the energy sector and to bring the voice of energy related industry market players (generators, equipment's producers, market operators and services providers) to the ongoing policy dialogue process under the framework of the UfM Energy Platforms ; and promoting innovative solutions by bringing the PPP thematic in the Local Authorities' Dialogue.

In 2019, the UfM Secretariat will organise the second UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum with a special focus on Local Authorities' Efforts in Energy Transition and Climate Change. This second forum will be held in Lisbon, Portugal. The objective of the Forum is to provide a networking space and is to promote innovative financing solutions, private investment and public-private partnerships in the Mediterranean region regarding local authorities' efforts in the energy transition and in facing climate change challenges. Concerning the promotion of innovative financing solutions, the UfM Secretariat will continue its collaboration with the World Alliance for Efficient Solutions (WAES), based on the MoU signed in 2017.

> Towards a UfM Initiative for Local Energy Transition

The increased focus on Local Authorities that emerged in 2017 will be therefore pursued in 2019, in particular in renewable energy and energy efficiency, and consultations with the UfM Co-Presidency will be regularly conducted to ensure coordination in that effect.

In 2019, the ongoing informal brainstorming sessions with several local authorities' actors on how to better support their efforts in energy efficiency and climate change will take form of UfM Initiative for



Local Energy Transition, to be presented during the UfM Energy Platforms Annual Meeting in January 2019. This informal dialogue has been held since 2017 and the technical outputs have been progressively shared with the UfM Energy Platforms. In 2019, UfMS will continue to strengthen policy dialogue among local authorities active in the field by organizing two sessions of UfM Peer to Peer Dialogue for LAs Efforts in Energy Transition per year.

To provide technical support to Local authorities' dialogue, in 2019, the UfM Secretariat will continue to establish a database of efforts and to organise one session of capacity building program per year.

The database of efforts, activities and projects in Energy Efficiency and Climate Change undertaken by local authorities will work to strengthen cooperation among these efforts through networking activities. The Capacity Building Program will tackle with project financing strategy.

Moreover, in order to give visibility on the identified efforts and regional knowledge, the UfMS will prepare a public publication on "How Regional Cooperation can Support Local Authorities' Efforts in Energy Transition and Climate Change". The UfM Secretariat will conduct this work also in accordance with the advancements of Clima-Med project (see below).

i. <u>Promoting Regional Projects and Initiatives</u>

a. Monitoring of labelled projects/initiatives

> UfM Energy University by Schneider Electric

In 2019, building on the achievements of 2018, the UfM Secretariat will continue connecting the project with its two priority areas, which are local authorities and private sector by promoting development of new training modules. The UfM Secretariat will invite promoter to UfM REEE Platform's annual meeting for receiving member states' inputs and recommendations.

SEMed Private Renewable Energy Framework ("SPREF")

In 2019, the UfM Secretariat will invite SPREF project representative at the annual meeting of the UfM Energy Platforms and organise a side-event in order to give visibility on SPREF's achievements. The UfM Secretariat will also prepare a leaflet to show the different projects being developed under SPREF.

b. Other initiatives, horizontal activities and institutional partnerships

> Active role in regional instruments

In order to ensure the coherence and complementarity of the activities of the UfM Secretariat with existing regional activities and initiatives, the UfM Secretariat will reinforce its active role and contribute to awareness on existing regional financial instruments and programs as well as promote potential synergies between existing or to be developed instruments, namely SEMED Regional Sustainable Energy Finance Facility (SEMED SEFF) which is being developed by the EBRD with other financial institutions (AFD, KfW and EIB);

District Energy in Cities program



a) the UfM Secretariat -member of the Steering Committee of this program- will continue providing technical and political inputs to the **District Energy in Cities program** in order to increase the number of beneficiary cities from UfM Member States and also share the project's experience with them. This UNEP Initiative aims to support national and municipal governments in their efforts to develop, retrofit or scale-up district energy systems, with backing from international and financial partners and the private sector. The program- converging with the UfM actions regarding Local Authorities support on Energy Transition issues- brings together cities, academia, technology providers and financial institutions in a joint ambition to build the necessary capacity and transfer of know-how while engaging all stakeholders and reducing emissions. In 2018, Morocco's Marrakech city became the first beneficiary city from the UfM region.

> Institutional Partnerships

In order to support the development of the project pipeline and horizontal activities, the UfM Secretariat will continue to strength its institutional partnerships with key specialized international organizations and regional stakeholders, namely and, inter alia, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Energy Charter Secretariat, the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RECREE), the Mediterranean Energy Regulators association (MEDREG), the Mediterranean Association of National Agencies of Energy (MEDENER), Mediterranean Transmission System Operators (Med-TSO), the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME), and relevant UN Programmes and Agencies such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The UfM Secretariat will explore a potential partnership with IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency).



2.4. CLIMATE CHANGE: Addressing the challenges of climate change

Strategic objectives 2018-2020

The Mediterranean region has been identified as one of the major hotspots of climate change in the world. Indeed, the rise of average temperature by 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels, being the lower limit not to be surpassed as agreed through the Paris Agreement, has already been exceeded. The adverse consequences of climate change on the countries of the region are thus numerous, but more particularly interdependent and collective.

The UfM strategic objective in the field of climate action is to continue and deepen the development of a Mediterranean agenda connected and coherent with the global agenda, promoting a strengthened cooperation among UfM Member States and relevant stakeholders in the region in order to:

- enhance the resilience of the Euro-Mediterranean region towards climate change impact;
- unlock socio-economic opportunities provided by a low carbon/energy transition development.

The UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change (Athens, 2014) sets out the specific priorities for action for the region, which are the guidelines of UfM Secretariat action:

- 1. address the impact of climate change in the region;
- 2. enhance the region's resilience to climate change, notably in key sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, water, also with respect to food security;
- 3. contribute to the reduction in the global greenhouse gas emissions before and after 2020 in order to limit the increase in global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to continue the action taken to limit the rise in global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius;
- 4. unleash the benefits and opportunities of the transition towards sustainable low-emission development economies, including for growth and job creation.

In order to review its activities and progress in the field of climate action, a second UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change is being prepared, potentially to be convened towards 2020. Annual meetings of the UfM Climate Change Expert Group, along the working lines revised in its on 16 March 2017, shall also be held along with the active participation of the UfMS in the annual COP meetings.

The UfM climate action activities are in line with the global agenda and contribute to SDG 13: *Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.* They also address, SDG 7, 8 and 11.



Furthermore, questions related to gender equality and women empowerment (SDG 5) and reducing inequalities in the region (SDG 10) will be mainstreamed throughout the UfMS action in this priority area.

2019 specific objectives

In 2019, the UfM Secretariat will continue to work in order to operationalize the Mediterranean agenda on climate action through an enhanced regional dialogue on climate issues of common interest, mainly within the frame of the UfM Climate Change Expert Group, established by the "1st Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change" (13 May 2014). The conclusions of the 2nd Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (Barcelona, 12-13 November 2018), as well as the recommendations of the external evaluation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change (Barcelona, 12-13 November 2018), preparation of the next UfM Ministerial Meeting regarding Climate Change issues (foreseen in 2020).

The development of initiatives and projects to strengthen the capacity of UfM Member States in order to address more efficiently a sustainable transition to low carbon models as well as their resilience towards climate related impacts will constitute important elements of the 2019 strategy. More concretely, in 2019, the UfM Secretariat will focus on:

- member countries NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions), with a particular focus on tourism and agriculture,
- capacity building on monitoring and action plans for NDCs preparation;
- climate finance and its accessibility for SEMed countries;
- scientific assessment of the impacts of climate change;
- youth engagement in climate action.

i. Promoting Regional Dialogue

> The UfM Climate Change Expert Group

The UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change adopted in May 2014 in Athens, Greece, established the Working Group on Environment and Climate Change and the UfM Climate Change Expert Group (UfMCCEG). The UfMCCEG has met six times since 2014. These meetings have provided the opportunity to assess the state of play of climate policies in UfM Member States as well as to showcase and to identify projects and initiatives of regional interest. The 5th meeting established a Work-program 2017-2022 with four main activities: sharing experiences on national measures, cooperation among financial institutions, science-based consensus on climate impacts, addressing regional concerns in international fora.

In line with this work program, in 2019, the UfMCCEG will continue to act as a as a regional policy dialogue platform for UfM Members and relevant stakeholders in order to identify initiatives and projects that could support the implementation of regional and national strategies related to low carbon development and climate resilience building, in full consistency with the engagements adopted within the framework of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement..



The seventh meeting of the UfMCCEG (including a potential ad hoc meeting on Agriculture/Climate change) is foreseen in Spring 2019. In view of the preparation of the next Ministerial, an ad hoc UfM Senior Officials Meeting on climate change issues, in order to start the discussions on the draft of a Ministerial Declaration, may be organised during 2019.

> Working Group on Environment and Climate Change

In collaboration with the UfM Water, Environment and Blue Economy Division and taking into account the level of advancements following the second meeting of the Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (12-13 November 2018), a third meeting might potentially be convened in 2019, if considered necessary.

> Participation of the UfM in UNFCCC COPs and Standing Committee on Finance

The 22nd Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC has granted observer status to the UfM in 2016. This enables the UfM to participate at the negotiations' sessions, especially at COPs, and to make contributions to the work of the UNFCCC secretariat.

The experience and success achieved with the participation of the UfM Secretariat during the COPs 21, 22, 23 and 24 has allowed to gain visibility for the Mediterranean agenda and the UfM Climate Action initiatives and projects, bringing the voice of the Mediterranean region and its main concerns to this important global momentum.

In line with the guidance provided by the UfM Roadmap, financial aspects have been prioritised as part of the UfM agenda. The UfM Secretariat therefore envisages to continue its cooperation and partnership with UNFCCC/SCF (Standing Committee on Finance), and to actively participate in its meetings, namely to the annual SCF Forum.

United Nations General Assembly 2019: UN Climate Summit 2019 ("A race we can win. A race we must win")

The Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals are the foundations for global efforts to address climate change. The purpose of the 2019 Climate Summit is to challenge states, regions, cities, companies, investors and citizens to step up action in six areas: Energy transition, Climate finance and carbon pricing, Industry transition, Nature-based solutions, Cities and local action, Resilience.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2019 will focus on climate action. Being the Secretariat an observer to the United Nations, the UfM Secretariat will aim at seizing this occasion to highlighting the Mediterranean dimension in the frame of the UNGA 2019.

Climate Action Studies

Following the publication of the two first UfM Climate Finance studies in 2017 and 2018 (International Public Climate Finance: Draft and Final Overview 2016, and Draft Overview 2017, financed until now by the European Facility "Integrated Maritime Policy – Climate Change"; and, International Private and National/Subnational Climate Finance), the time has come to conduct a new more action-oriented sutdy, which would update the yearly trends of climate finance flows in the SEMed region, but also propose a regional strategy in order to optimise the match between



the demand (roughly summarised in the NDCs), and the financial offer available at various levels. As publication of data for 2018 will fully be available only at the beginning of 2020, the study will be organised in two phases, and its final outcomes will only be published in the 1st semester of 2020, before the Ministerial meeting. This action-oriented study would aim at:

• Providing an overview on the amount of international climate financing (public and private) delivered in the UfM region, as part of the USD100 bn to be mobilised for climate action by 2020.

• Assessing the current areas of actions of IFIs and donors, providing a clear overview of the current financial instruments available and identifying flagship projects from which best practices can be showcased. This could help enhance synergies among financial instruments .

• Identifying specific gaps / needs and, if necessary, suggesting new approaches, taking into account the risk sharing and specific needs to support country-driven strategies.

- The results of the "Regional Analysis of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)", finalised in January 2019, will represent an important contribution of the UfM CCEG work program, notably on the Activity 1 (Sharing experience on national measures), and in interaction with other UfM dialogue platforms. The study aims at providing an assessment on the state of play of NDCs' implementation in 13 SEMed countries (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Mauritania, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Turkey). The study also covers NAPs (National Adaptation Plans). This assessment will contribute to provide an understanding of the UfM context as well as of potential synergies and complementarities among national measures and policies, and will be presented during the 7th UFMCCEG to be held in Spring 2019. The recommendations will also be coordinated with the CLIMA MED project (see below). Depending on the results of the study, the UfM Secretariat, in coordination with the UfMCCEG, may consider launching a second follow-up study addressing NDCs' topics not covered by CLIMA MED.

- The study on agriculture (Assessment of the impacts of Climate Change on the Agriculture Sector in the Southern Mediterranean") will be finalised before the next UfM CCEG, and should be then presented along with other initiatives (notably the part of the PRIMA work program on agriculture dealing with climate change). The study considers how policies and measures are addressing climate change impacts that could affect agriculture, such as water shortages, biodiversity loss, or an increase in the use of chemical fertilizers, in UfM Member States of the ENI South Region (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia).

- The study on climate change and tourism ("Climate Change impacts on the Tourism Sector in the Southern Mediterranean") has delivered its results in 2018, and should still be promoted in 2019, notably in relevant international fora. The study aims at supporting the UfM Member States of the ENI South Region (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia) in providing comprehensive presentations of their national policies and measures related to the integration of climate change issues in tourism and how they address climate change impacts that could affect tourism destinations, their competitiveness and sustainability.



> Supporting youth engagement in climate action

The UfM Secretariat has supported the creation of the Mediterranean Youth Climate Network since its inception in 2016, a youth network of associations of the Mediterranean region deeply concerned about the effects of climate change in the region and strongly involved and engaged to take action and make it a priority while contributing to international and regional climate fora.

In 2019, the UfM Secretariat will continue its support to the Mediterranean Youth Climate Network, hosting their General Assemblies meetings and involving youth to take action in the climate action field.

The UfMS will support the Mediterranean Youth Climate Network in the organisation of the second Mediterranean Youth Climate Forum, planned to be held in 2019. This activity would be in line of the support that UfM Secretariat brings to youth regarding their climate action engagement and also in line with the broader strategy of the UfM aiming at empowering youth in the Mediterranean region.

> Participation of the UfM in other international and regional dialogue fora

Addressing climate change issues requires the involvement of all actors. Intergovernmental actions on climate change can benefit from initiatives promoted by the civil society, private sector or local authorities.

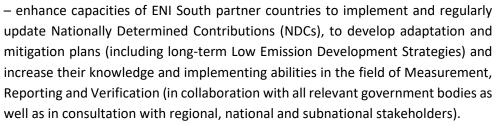
As COP25 will not be organised in the UfM region, a regional Mediterramean Climate Conference could be a useful way of highlighting regional actions on climate. Such an event could include the following:

- the Facilitation Dialogue of the Paris Agreement in the Mediterranean region (along the lines of the "Talanoa Dialogue" process, proposed by the Presidency of COP 23);
- the second Mediterranean Youth Climate Forum (see above):
- a regional structured dialogue with GCF and other international climate funds, in line with the work of the UfM Regional Climate Finance Committee.

ii. Promoting Regional Projects and Initiatives

a. Monitoring of labelled projects/initiatives

- As climate action is an integrated part of sustainable development, several out of the 51 UfM labelled projects have a climate dimension. The UfM leaflet on Climate Action (the first version was prepared in 2016 for COP 22) will be reviewed and updated before the potential UfM Regional Climate conference and the UNGA2019. This leaflet will be very useful in view of the preparation of the 2nd UfM Ministerial meeting related to climate change and regarding UfM climate activities.
- The "CLIMA MED" (EU for Climate Action in the Southern neighbouring countries) is currently in the process of labelling. The project, 100% funded by the EU, will be developed until 2022. It aims at three major results:



– increase the number of local Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan (SEACAPs), including greenhouse gases inventories and climate vulnerability and risk assessments, developed and implemented in line with the Global Covenant of Mayors principles, leading to concrete actions implemented by local authorities in the Southern Neighbourhood.

 improve access to finance mechanisms for project beneficiaries leading to more implementation of sustainable actions at national and local level.

This project, which includes the follow-up of SUDEP (Sustainable Urban Demonstration Projects), CESMED (Cleaner Energy Saving Mediterranean Cities) and CLIMA SOUTH projects that came to an end in 2018, is in full line with the UfM CCEG work program, and will help in operationalizing some of its activities. It also would be the first "climate-dedicated" UfM labelled project.

b. Development of the project pipeline

> The Cluster Med Climate Transparency Initiative (Cluster MED)

This project aims at strengthening the capacity of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries to fulfil their NDC's national commitments, NDC's on accountability, action plans and transparency within the framework of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, through a joint mobilization of experts. This project is currently suspended pending the finalization of the funding process. Once the funding has been secured, the project would be proposed for labelling.

c. Other Initiatives and horizontal activities

> Regional Climate Finance Committee

The UfM Regional Climate Finance Committee, established in 2016, initiated the cooperation through sharing of information among IFIs and donors active on climate finance in the Mediterranean region. It provides advice to the Activity 2 of the UfM CCEG (Cooperation among financial institutions). During the UfM Climate Week (April 2018), it was decided to shorten its name (formerly called Regional Finance Cooperation Committee on Climate Action). It is organized under the chairmanship of the UfM Secretariat and, in 2019, the UfM Secretariat will continue to animate it, with the objective to further promote coordination and sharing of information, as well as to identify new areas of cooperation for the possible development of complementary financing mechanisms, in cooperation with the results and subsequent work based on the UfM Climate Finance Studies and in line with the work relations developed with UNFCCC (and its climate finance team namely), as well as with the Green Climate Fund and fostering the contribution to its reports as being the unique Mediterranean-focused organization.



> Scientific assessment of the impacts of climate change

In connection with the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) at the global scale, and in line with the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, the UfM wishes to assess more precisely the impacts of climate change on the Mediterranean basin. A dedicated convention has been signed in December 2017 with UNEP MAP- Plan Bleu for a validity of 3 years. Consequently, a technical assistance, financed by SIDA helpsthe network of Mediterranean experts on Environment and Climate Change (MedECC) to prepare an assessment report on the situation and the impacts of climate change on the Mediterranean basin.

The Draft report will be prepared by the end of 2019, in time to present major highlights during the UfM Regional Climate Conference and the full report during COP25. These reports will be shared with members of the UfM CCEG.

In parallel, contacts have been established with the relevant multilateral organizations (notably the World Meteorological Organisation) to provide a general framework for cooperation.

> Climate risks prevention and resilience

The joint OSCE-UfM project concept on "Prevention of Climate and Environment Security Threats in Mediterranean" was recently presented by the OSCE and UfM to the UfM member States and Co-Presidency on 25 April 2018 during the 6th UfM CCEG Meeting, and was well received.

In the project, the UfM has the primary role in engaging with the project target countries in the southern Mediterranean (namely Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia) which represent the OSCE's Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. Other target countries of the project (namely, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro) are both UfM Member States and OSCE participating States. The OSCE offers its expertise and experience on the climate security issues.

In early 2019, the UfMS will, together with the OSCE, implement the conclusions of the study ("Prevention of Climate and Environment Security Threats in Mediterranean"), conducted in 2018, and will continue their joint efforts to mobilize resources for the full project to be developed in 2019.

> Trophies of Adaptation to Climate Change in the Mediterranean

Following the first Trophies organized in 2016, l'Agence Française de l'Environnement et de Maîtrise de l'Energie (the French Agency on Environment and Energy Efficiency (ADEME)) will organise a contest to highlight the challenge of mobilizing Mediterranean actors around issues of climate change adaptation and showcase concrete case studies, with an evaluation on the on-going projects.

The UfMS will be a partner and a member of the steering committee of this initiative in the process, which is particularly relevant for the region, as Adaptation issues are of the utmost importance in the region. UfMS intends to use this process as a catalyzer for highlighting potentially "bankable" adaptation projects.

d. Institutional Partnerships

In order to support the development of a solid project pipeline and horizontal activities, the UfM Secretariat will further strengthen its institutional partnership with key specialized regional



stakeholders and international organizations, namely and, inter alia, the United Nations and its Sustainable Development Goals (Climate Week), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UNEP -Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP-MAP) and Plan Bleu, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Meteorological Organisation, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-MED), the Euro-Med Center on Climate Change, the Climate Knowledge, Innovation, Community (Climate-KIC), the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), the Mediterranean Youth Climate Network (MYCN), the World Alliance for Efficient Solutions (WAES) and the Solar Impulse Foundation.



2.5. ENVIRONMENT: Preserving natural resources and boosting green and blue growth

Strategic objectives 2018-2020

In order to respond to exceptional environmental pressures of the region, as testified by the increase by 52 percent¹⁴ of the Mediterranean's per capita ecological footprint over the last 40 years, the UfM Secretariat will focus on implementing the priorities identified by the UfM Member countries in the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change (Athens, 2014) and related policy/technical platforms - namely the Working Group on environment and climate change, and the newly established post 2020 Environment Agenda Task Force. Moreover, the UfMS will also aim at integrating emerging challenges and initiatives such as marine litter, in particular plastics, given that 731 tons of plastic waste ends up in the Mediterranean Sea every day¹⁵.

The UfM Secretariat will pursue the following strategic objectives for the period 2018-2020:

- To reach consensus as well the consolidation of a broader UfM environmental post- 2020 agenda, based on the achievements in the implementation of the "green, circular, low emission economy package" identified in the 2014 Ministerial declaration, and based on a broad consultation process held in the period of 2017-2019 ahead of a 2nd potential UfM Ministerial meeting, planned for end 2019/beginning 2020;
- To discuss and identify with UfM Co-Presidency and UfM Member States, as well as key stakeholders, the follow-up for the post-2020 timeframe of ongoing Joint initiatives on depollution, pollution prevention and climate change, including the H2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean and other emerging ones;
- To ensure close links with the environmental aspects of mitigation and adaptation to climate change (through work on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), desertification, land degradation, forestry, Marine Protected Areas (MPA) etc.);
- To continue facilitating financial flows to projects impacting on the health of the Mediterranean Sea, by promoting the prioritization of projects of regional environmental impact, as well the best use of regional and global financial frameworks for this purpose.

On the basis of the mandate given by the Ministerial Declaration, the two meetings of the UfM Working Group - held in 2017 and recently, at the end of 2018 - have reviewed progress of the implementation of the Declaration with the direct contribution of countries and in close collaboration with implementing organisations and stakeholders' processes, programmes, projects, initiatives This has allowed a consensus to emerge regarding the developments and achievements, in particular in the implementation of the H2020 Initiative for a Cleaner

¹⁴ Mediterranean Ecological Footprint Trends:

http://www.footprintnetwork.org/images/article_uploads/Med_Policy_Brief_English_RF.pdf

¹⁵ "Marine Litter Assessment in the Mediterranean" May 26, 2016 - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



Mediterranean, in access to finance for green entrepreneurs and in the development of programmes for sustainable production and consumption such as MedRSCP. The external evaluation of the entire Ministerial Declaration and the work of the Task force on Environment have also allowed to identify the issues which, if agreed by the Senior officials in 2019 will form the basis for the 2nd UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change. In this respect, the UfMS will follow the mandate provided by the agreed conclusions by the UfM member countries at the 2018 Working Group on Environment and Climate Change, including on the calendar of meetings , to define the UfM post-2020 environment agenda, and the technical and procedural steps to move towards a 2nd Ministerial Meeting.

For the implementation of its environment mandate and in preparation of the post-2020 agenda, particular attention will be devoted to partnerships and collaborations with strategic actors operating in the specific focus area/s in order to – in the respect of each other mandates - pull together financial resources where possible, maximize the impacts of joint actions and capitalize on the shared efforts at the benefit of the countries of the region.

Through these activities, the UfMS will contribute to the implementation of SDGs relevant to its mandate on environment, in particular SDGs 12, 13, 14 and 15, and address to a larger SDGs 8, 9 and 11. The UfMS will further develop its links and work programme in line with the international environment conventions. In particular, the UfM Secretariat will closely cooperate with the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) to ensure as far as possible synergies between actions of the UfM on the environment and actions under the Barcelona Convention. As accredited observer, it will further develop links with the relevant UNFCCC Committees and shape a joint programme of work with UNCDD for the years to come.

2019 specific objectives

At policy level, the current focus is on the implementation of the first Ministerial Declaration (2014) and its main strategic axes of work, with a view to move towards a second UfM Ministerial Meeting - on the basis of the conclusions adopted at the 2nd Working Group on ENV and CC, which will be presented to the the SOM in 2019.

In this framework, the UfM Secretariat will focus in 2019 on the following areas of action:

- Preparation of a potential 2º UfM Ministerial of Environment and Climate change late 2019 or early 2020 to endorse the UfM post-2020 environment agenda and work program, in accordance with the proposals/recommendations of the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate change;
- Support to the implementation of ongoing regional initiatives and development of projects with a regional dimension, while starting to shape the new UfM post-2020 portfolio of joint initiative/s;
- 3. Continued cooperation on investment financing under the H2020 investment component in order to enable the identification of regional flagship projects, with particular emphasis in linking this initiative with other international and UfM financial initiatives



4. Strengthen the links between UfM Focal points, thus creating a beneficial cascade effect in terms of in-country and regional coordination;

The Secretariat will continue to support the labelling of projects providing real opportunities for reducing pressures/safeguarding natural resources, while enhancing job creation and improving the socio-economic situation in the region as well as promoting at the same time opportunities to enhance regional cooperation.

i. <u>Promoting Regional Dialogue</u>

Based on the recommendations of the 1st and 2nd UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change held respectively in March 2017 and November 2018, as well as the recommendations on the Post 2020 agenda of the UfM Environment Task Force held in November 2018, and the final Progress Report on the evaluation of the implementation of the 2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, the UfM Secretariat will follow up and support the implementation of the steps/actions agreed for 2019 with the UfM Member Countries to define the post-2020 UfM environment agenda. This could possibly be officially endorsed by a 2nd Ministerial Meeting, subject to a prior decision by the SOM.

In particular, in 2019, the UfM Secretariat will support the Co-Presidency in presenting to the SOM a proposal for a potential 2nd Ministerial Meeting and, if agreed, consolidate the consensus the related Declaration. In line with the tentative calendar already shared at the WG in 2018, the following policy dialogues meetings are foreseen:

- > 3rd (and if needed 4th) meeting of the UfM Environment Task Force;
- 3rd UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (WGECC);
- Ad hoc Senior Officials Meeting (to discuss the potential draft declaration, should the ministerial be agreed)

ii. Promoting Regional Projects and Initiatives

a. Monitoring of labelled projects/initiatives

> Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean

The Horizon 2020 Initiative, a key pillar of the environmental strategy for the Mediterranean, tackles the sources of pollution that account for around 80% of the overall pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, namely municipal waste, urban waste water and industrial pollution. At the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change of May 2014, countries launched the 2nd phase of H2020, and agreed to strengthen its pollution prevention dimension and expand its action to emerging and related issues, such as hazardous waste and marine litter.

The H2020 initiative is composed of four coordinated areas of work (investment projects, capacity building and review monitoring; research being addressed horizontally within each component). In addition to the engagement in specific components, UfM Secretariat is represented as a member of the Steering Committee of the overall initiative alongside the EC, EIB, UNEP-MAP and EEA. The activities



under the H2020 Initiative are part of the strategic MoU with UNEP-MAP and the UfM acts as co-chair of the Pollution Reduction and Prevention Investment (PRPI).

In 2019, the Secretariat will assist the H2020 Core Group in consolidating the results of the H2020 Initiative, which ends this year, in order to build on the lessons learnt for the post 2020 agenda and work program.

1. Investment projects

The Pollution Reduction and Prevention Investment (PRPI) Group associates all major donors and financial institutions (DG ENV, DG NEAR, EIB, EBRD, GEF, AFD, KFW, etc.) to coordinate activities on investment projects.

As co-chair of the Pollution Reduction and Investment Group (PRPI) of the H2020 initiative together with the EIB, the UfM will, in view of the termination of the initiative focus its efforts in 2019 on agreeing with partners on the appropriate lessons learnt from this component for the H2020 initiative and in following up on the legacy of projects in the pipeline having resulted from this common framework. It will seek to define a methodology to enable the identification of a list of regional priority investment projects, based on the priorities identified at national level and following to rigorous environmental and financial criteria in coordination with other areas of work of the UfM on financing (UfM Water agenda, Climate Finance, UPFI....).

In 2019 the priorities of the UfM activities in this field will concentrate on the following actions:

- Assist in consolidating and communicating the H2020 Investment projects advanced/ing for funding and matching the above-mentioned methodology, in particular in relation to projects under MEHSIP;
- Promote access to finance through the existing UfM mechanisms and body namely the PRPI Group; in parallel, start to develop closer links between environment and climate action finance activities, in view of the potential successor initiative to the H2020 initiative;
- Foresee a closer involvement of Ministries of Finance, Economics and Planning through ad hoc meetings and invitation to participate in H2020 initiative meetings of relevance

2. Capacity Building

As far as the H2020 Capacity Building component is concerned, the EU funded H2020/SWIM Support Mechanism will be fully implemented and reach its end in mid-2019 (capacity building activities started in late 2017). The civil society component of the H2020/SWIM Support Mechanism will be supported by another dedicated UfM Secretariat technical assistance focusing on sustainable development launched in 2018; such technical assistance will maintain the close partnership with the UfM-labelled Blue-Green networking mechanism. Similarly, another dedicated technical assistance is devoted to support funding of the UfM agreed marine litter activities, in close cooperation and complementarity with the H2020/SWIM work.

3. Review and Monitoring

Within the H2020 Monitoring and Reporting component, the 2nd phase of the EU funded project SEIS (Shared Environmental Information System) aims at producing an assessment of the H2020 Initiative



performance through a set of agreed indicators by mid-2019. The UfM Secretariat will keep on following closely this exercise and give visibility to its results during the preparation of the Ministerial process.

> Depollution - Integrated Program to Protect Lake Bizerte against Pollution

The project was formally launched in November 2016 making it the first project under the H2020 investment framework under implementation, benefitting from specific technical assistance from UfM Secretariat in 2017.

Building on the First "Forum de la Mer" held in Bizerte in October 2018, the UfMS will continue to liaise closely with the Tunisian authorities in 2019 to envisage the organisation of another event highlighting the contribution of this project to the socio-economic development of the Bizerte region and the links with other cross-cutting issues relevant to this region, such as the fight against climate change and a sustainable approach to the blue economy.

> Pollution Prevention - Sustainable Consumption and Production and Med ReSCP

In line with the objectives on sustainable consumption and production detailed in the UfM declaration on environment and climate change, the UfM Secretariat will continue to be engaged in a number of initiatives promoting these objectives, contributing to its activities, events (SwitchMED Connect), fund-raising, networking and visibility of the initiatives. All the activities run under this dossier contribute to the overall implementation of the Ministerial Declaration, to the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (running up to 2030), approved by the Conference of the Parties of Barcelona Convention in February 2016, and to the overall UfM-labelled MEDRESCP project objectives. More broadly they fit in with the growing consensus on the promotion of the circular economy as one of the drivers for the transformation of consumption and production in the Mediterranean.

During 2019, the Secretariat will support other technical assistance activities in relation to the promotion of sustainable consumption and production in the region, considering in particular the potential for linkages with climate change as well as with education for sustainable development. It will also build on the work carried out in partnership with SCP-RAC-UNEP-MAP on the access to finance for green entrepreneurs.

The Post Rio+20 MedReSCP, jointly led by UNIDO, EBRD and UNEP-MAP, will still benefit from the Austrian financed DRIVE (Delivering Resource Efficiency InVEstments) Fund facilitated by the UfM Secretariat and channeled through the EBRD to support sustainable resource investments in the Western Balkans and Turkey became operational in 2016 and will be running up to 2020.

The Post Rio+20 MedReSCP will join forces with the to-be-launched EU-funded SwitchMed – Phase 2, directing some extra attention to plastic industries and value chain issues. The UfMS will continue promoting this initiative, seeking to create opportunities for new projects of regional interest by contributing to its activities and events (such as through the support to SwitchMED Connect), assisting in fund-raising, networking and providing visibility to the initiatives

> Blue-Green Med Civil society organizations



The overall goal of the project, launched in February 2016, is to promote existing and new cooperation and leveraging opportunities among CSOs in the field of water and environment, ensuring balanced presence on the ground of northern and southern NGO, and to identify options for strengthening dialogue and collaboration between civil society, public authorities and other relevant stakeholders alongside concrete actions and innovative participation mechanisms. Overall, the project will continue to function as a networking mechanism, linking national actions to the regional dimension and up-scaling the thematic and/or geographical scope of existing projects and initiatives.

More specifically, with the facilitation of the UfM Secretariat Blue-Green networking mechanism for civil society has been integrated into the SWIM-Horizon2020 Support Mechanism (SM) and linked to the Global environment fund (GEF)/Small Grants. As first result, the geographical coverage of Blue-Green has expanded to all Mediterranean countries. This cooperation will continue to be promoted once the new Water and Environment support program (WES) from the EC, which replaces SWIM/H2020, is launched.

The SWIM/H2020 SM capacity building component will be fully operational till mid- 2019. Thus Blue-Green will serve the needs of the program ensuring CSOs involvement and expanding the network to the NGOs/CSOs identified under the GEF Small Grants Program.

> Plastic Busters for a Mediterranean free from litter

The project Plastic Busters for a Mediterranean free from litter was labelled in February 2016. It is a project promoted by the University of Siena which in 2017, with the support of GIZ and the UfM Secretariat, presented the first draft of the Protocol on Bio-indicators for Marine Litter, to be published, and a regional on the job training on marine litter monitoring.

The overall goal of the project is to effectively tackle the issue of marine litter in the Mediterranean in line with the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management, approved by the Conference of the Parties of the Barcelona Convention. Marine litter was also identified as an emerging priority in two UfM Ministerial Declarations, namely the on Blue Economy in November 2015 and on Environment and Climate Change in May 2014.

The project will enable to assess the amount, sources, pathways, distribution convergence areas and effects of marine litter to better mitigate and reduce the impact of marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea. The project website, already up and running is regularly updated by the promoters and has very wide dissemination, making it an interesting best practice case. Due to its close interlinkages, operational links with the depollution and pollution prevention/sustainable consumption and production packages will be closely promoted.

The UfM Secretariat is further supporting the widest dissemination of many information and communication campaigns carried out by the consortium of promoters

In 2019, the UfM will support a marine litter regional workshop in order to ensure the participation of non-EU countries, including Western Balkan countries, and build a path towards future transfer of methodologies and results emerging from the Plastic Busters MPAs and other relevant projects.



Scaling up forest and landscape restoration in order to restore biodiversity and promote joint mitigation and adaptation approaches in the Mediterranean

The project aims at setting the stage for scaling up land restoration at regional level and demonstrating, through pilot activities applying appropriate Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) approaches in Morocco and Lebanon, how to contribute to the achievement of national and global restoration targets related to:

- the Bonn Challenge on forest landscape restoration¹⁶
- the Paris Agreement on Climate Change;
- Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The newly-labelled UfM project will be articulated in regional and national components.

- At the regional level, key resources will be provided to regional platforms (among actions planned are the organization of one high level event, the provision of specialized technical assistance and the organization of three-capacity building workshops). This component is open to all UfM member states pertaining to the FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry- Silva Mediterranea.
- At the national level, pilot activities applying appropriate FLR approaches will be conducted in preselected sites in Morocco and Lebanon with the aim of creating an enabling environment for the scaling up of large FLR programs to other interested countries in the Mediterranean.

With a total budget of 1,850,000 Euros over a 4-year period, the project, promoted by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), will build regional and national capacity for the implementation of large scale Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) programs in Mediterranean countries.

This project is the Mediterranean component of a larger global project called "The Paris-Agreement in action: scaling up Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) in the context of the Bonn Challenge to achieve NDCs by promoting joint mitigation approaches in Africa, Pacific Islands and the Mediterranean".

b. Other Initiatives and horizontal activities

The UfM Secretariat follows and promotes other horizontal activities through the UfM platforms (the Task Force on Environment, the Working Group on Environment and Climate Change Working Group, etc.) or through participation in regional dialogue fora and platforms.

In terms of new partnerships, UfM Secretariat will work on the following recent developments:

 The UfM Secretariat is developing a joint work program on drought policy and land restoration with the UNCDD, following official accreditation at UNCDD CoP. The UfMS expects to be present at UNCCD COP14 (possibly also with a side event), building on the UfMS work on drought and desertification in the Mediterranean region.

¹⁶ The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.



- An MoU with CPRM (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions Inter-Mediterranean Commission), official permanent observer of the UfM Working group on ENV and CC, Blue Economy Working Group and official partner of the UfM Secretariat within the EASME/DG MARE Grant; CPRM further stands as key partner of the Environment agenda and portfolio with some key initiatives of environmental relevance such as the Bologna Charter and its Joint Action Plan (JAP) for the promotion of a sustainable development in coastal areas, focusing on the involvement of local authorities.
- As observer, the UfM Secretariat will follow the environment relevant committees of UN Convention on Climate Change and Convention on Biological Diversity;
- The UfM Secretariat has also become an associated partner of the Panoramed programme, Axis 4, which is preparing to launch its first call for the identification and implementation of strategic projects on identified themes.

In 2019, the UfMS aims to further develop its cooperation with the GEF (through notably a visit at the GEF headquarters in Washington).



2.6. BLUE ECONOMY: Promoting blue economy

With 46,000 kms of coastline and unique marine and fisheries resources, the Mediterranean Sea represents the fifth largest economy in the region, with an overall value estimated at €4.7 trillion, and is the world's second-largest destination for cruise-ship tourism. The assets and contributions of the marine and maritime sectors to the Euro-Mediterranean economies are thus remarkable.

In line with the first UfM Ministerial Meeting on Blue Economy (Brussels, 2015) and its main strategic axes of work and the concrete deliverables listed below, the UfM Secretariat supports the UfM Co-Presidency and Member States with the regional dialogue processes at regional and sub-regional levels on the Blue Economy, as well as with the development of its portfolio of projects, in view of moving towards a second UfM Ministerial Meeting,- after consultation with the Blue Economy Working Group and the SOM.

Based on the major strategic processes launched by the 2015 Ministerial Declaration, the UfM Secretariat particularly aims to:

- Consolidate the Blue economy agenda and portfolio of initiatives in the UfM region, by continuing to develop the Blue Economy forum, which is a process including the UfM Blue Economy Working Group, regional training and to build on the results of the UfM Blue Economy regional Stakeholders' Conference (Naples, November 2017);
- Support the launch and the implementation of the "Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean (WestMed Initiative)", and build on the commitments and roadmap adopted at the 2° Westmed Ministerial meeting and Conference (Algiers, December 2018). The WestMed Initiative went through a thorough policy process culminating in a dedicated EU Communication, a detailed Framework for Action and an informal Ministerial Meeting gathering all 10 participating countries, as well as the UfM Co-Presidency and the UfM Secretariat, for final political endorsement in Naples, in November 2017, on the occasion of the UfM Blue Economy Regional Stakeholders' Conference;
- Support DG RTD in the extension to non-EU countries the EU funded Research Initiative "BLUEMED Research and innovation initiative for blue jobs and growth in the Mediterranean area" (Bluemed Initiative), in particular with a Technical assistance for WP 5 of the BLUEMED CSA of and in setting up the sub-group on BLUEMED under the GSO, so as to become a shared initiative with joint actions on research and innovation. The main priorities are expected to be revised with the non-EU countries joining the initiative in order to come to a common shared set of issues to work on;
- Contribute to the creation of a Mediterranean BE community of stakeholders, with the support of the Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform (formerly known as the Virtual Knowledge Centre) and other initiatives, such as through participation at other events promoting the Blue economy in the Mediterranean
- Support the integration of maritime Spatial planning as cross sectorial policy tool for planning;



• Identify and act on the Blue economy regional priorities brought to light through the Western Mediterranean process and the UfM Blue Economy regional Stakeholder's Conference, translating them into specific initiatives in relevant sector.

At operational level, between 2018 and 2020, the Blue Economy dossier will be under full implementation through the different components of the Blue Economy Forum, namely:

- the regular running of the meetings of the UfM Blue Economy Working Group twice per year for steering and guidance of the work program and for the Ministerial;
- the organisation, of the regular demand-driven Regional Technical seminars;
- together with other mechanisms for stakeholders' involvement and mobilisation through at least another UfM Stakeholder Conference, to be held late 2019 or early 2020;
- the active use of the Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform [Virtual Knowledge Centre] conceived and shaped as a tool for networking and information sharing for the Mediterranean Blue Economy Community:
- Potential launch of a new dedicated support to the UfM Blue Economy dossier through the EASME grant.

Under close coordination of the UfM Task Force on Blue Economy, relevant projects have also been labelled or advanced for labelling, including the "MedCoast4BlueGrowth" project on Maritime Spatial Planning/Integrated Coastal Zone Management applied to the Tourism Sector at local level. Among others, tourism in coastal areas is by far the sector with the highest gross value-added contribution (83% of the total GVA of € 169 bn) to the Mediterranean economy and with the highest employment rate (79% of the total 4.2 million of jobs).

The UfM Secretariat will study as well the possibilities for projects for training in the maritime sector. In addition, it is worth noting that work by the UfM Secretariat on maritime transport has led to the labelling of various projects of relevance to the Blue economy file.

The UfM blue economy related activities contribute particularly to SDG 14: *Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.* Furthermore, questions related to gender equality and women empowerment (SDG 5) and reducing inequalities in the region (SDG 10) will be mainstreamed throughout the UfMS action in this priority area.

2019 specific objectives

In 2019 the UfM Secretariat will focus on the following areas of action:

- Holding of the 5th and potentially 6^o meeting of the UfM Working Group on Blue Economy and launching discussion on a 2nd potential Ministerial meeting,
- Preparation for a 2^o UfM Stakeholder Conference on Blue Economy will also be initiated, and if possible held towards the end of the year
- Consolidation of the extension of the Bluemed initiative to southern and eastern Mediterranean partners and implementation of its reviewed Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda;



- Support WestMed to translate the thematic priorities identified and endorsed at Ministerial level into national/regional projects and initiatives;
- Follow up on the labelling of the MedCoast4BlueGrowth project in terms of assistance in securing complete financing and its possible extension to new partners;
- Assessment of relevant regional blue economy projects and/or initiatives for potential labelling;
- Increase the outreach of the Med BE stakeholder platform through a dedicated technical assistance and consolidate its role of key digital hub for the emerging Mediterranean Blue economy community;
- Launch of a technical assistance on Maritime Clusters

i. <u>Promoting Regional Dialogue</u>

In 2019, the UfM Secretariat will consult with the members of the Blue Economy Working Group on a 2nd potential Ministerial meeting - as foreseen by the 2015 UfM Blue Economy Ministerial Declaration - and will further report any orientation to the Senior Officials for follow up and decision, including, if necessary to assist in the organization of the Ad hoc SOM on Blue economy. Currently, the Ministerial is tentatively envisaged to be held, if so agreed, during 2020.

During the course of the year, the UfM Secretariat will also assist with the organization of Regional Technical Seminars targeting Government experts in priority Blue Economy sectors financed by the EU through the IMP Med Facility till its completion in April 2019, whose thematic will be decided based on the needs indicated by the countries.

The UfM Secretariat will keep working with Member Countries, partners and stakeholders on the identification of, and support to, blue economy initiative and projects as well as on the strengthening and consolidation of the Mediterranean Blue Economy community as a regional network - in close coordination with the UfM Co-Presidency, UfM Blue Economy Working Group, the West Med Steering Committee as well as the IMP Facility -

As to the latter, it is expected that in 2019, the Blue Economy Community make the most out of the new features of the Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholders' Platform significantly upgraded and brought into full activation as a networking platform and stakeholders register. The Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform MED BESP will keep expanding the Blue Economy Community under its three components: "Knowledge Management Systems (KMS)" "Projects" and "Stakeholders". Likewise, it will keep hosting and disseminating news, events, studies, best practices, policies and legislation, and serve as network of networks by linking different blue economy communities (i.e. BlueMed, Panacea, Interreg Med, ENI CBC, etc.). Least but not last at all, it is expected to become the reference digital platform thanks to its capacity to provide its users with practical tools for establishing dialogue on issues of common interest or collaborating in blue projects or single activities.

ii. <u>Promoting Regional Projects and Initiatives</u>

a. Monitoring of labelled projects/initiatives



BlueMed Initiative

The "BLUEMED Research and innovation initiative for blue jobs and growth in the Mediterranean area" (Bluemed Initiative) intends to tap into the full potential of the marine and maritime R&I sector of the participating States and of all those who are willing to join to create new 'blue' jobs, and to promote and improve social well-being, sustainable prosperity and environmental status of the concerned area and beyond. In the 2019, the regular meetings of the BlueMed Platform and Working Group will continue.

In 2019, the UfM Secretariat will work to consolidate the extension of the "BLUEMED Initiative -Research and Innovation Initiative for Blue Jobs and Growth in the Mediterranean Area" to other southern and eastern UfM countries" as mandated in the UfM Blue Economy Ministerial Declaration, and focus on the implementation of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, reviewed through dedicated national dialogues held during 2018 with the non EU UfM countries involved.

West Med Initiative

The "Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative for the Western Mediterranean (West Med Initiative) aims at the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean through a goaloriented series of joint actions to make the common sea space safer, cleaner and more productive. In 2019, the objective will be to work towards the translation into action of the common priorities identified in the West Med RoadMap.

MedCoast4BlueGrowth

MedCoast4BG's general objective is to analyze and promote the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems in coastal areas currently or potentially devoted to tourism, taking into consideration climate change effects, sustainable development of tourist activities, and basing its analysis and actions on the principles of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP). The project intends to demonstrate the:

- feasibility and effectiveness of a planning process on Pilot Areas following ICZM/MSP principles and of selected pilot actions, such as for examples recovery of beach dunes, dredging with sediment reuse for nourishment, lodging prototypes, differentiated and de-seasonal touristic offer, etc.;
- 2) the importance of local stakeholder's engagement on key issues for sustainable coastal tourism development.

The project builds on the EU funded Co-Evolve Interreg Med Program and scales it up to two non-EU countries, namely Tunisia and Montenegro, while remaining open for other countries to join potentially.

Project meetings will be taking place with the objective to gather stakeholders from the different projects' pilot areas in partnership with the CO-EVOLVE project. Over 2019, the main aim is to possibly launch the project and start the implementation plan.

b. Development of the project pipeline



Two projects are under assessment for their potential labelling in 2019: NEMO project promoted by CIHEAM Bari for the sustainable development of coastal communities, and ODYSSEA project aiming at developing an interoperable and cost-effective platform able to integrate networks of observing and forecasting systems across the Mediterranean basin, addressing both the open sea and the coastal zone.

c. Other Initiatives and horizontal activities

In 2019, the UfM Secretariat will publish a Report in which case studies of maritime clusters active in the Mediterranean region are identified and analyzed with the objective to provide a reliable snapshot of clustering of maritime sectors and the challenges and opportunities linked to their establishment, functioning and performance., including reference to case studies relevant to research and innovation (in view to contribute to the BLUEMED Initiative), to employability of youth and women and close the gap between labour demand and supply (in view to contribute to the UfM flagship initiative Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs) and on knowledge and innovation sharing for effective. It worth noting that the clustering of maritime sectors has been identified as a key thematic priority within the WestMed Initiative.

Cooperation with the General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean (GFCM) of the FAO will continue over 2019 both at policy level, so within the frame of the possible elaboration of a 2nd Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy, and in terms of operational activities, namely within the frame of the 2nd UfM BE Stakeholders Conference (expected to take place during the 2nd half of 2019). A bilateral meeting of the UfMS with the GFCM Secretariat is foreseen to be organized in early 2019 to define more in detail the potential joint work program.



2.7. WATER: Improving availability, efficient use and sustainable management

Strategic objectives 2018-2020

With more than 180 million people considered water poor and an additional 60 million facing water stress, it is everyday more evident that the most effective way to solve challenges throughout the region is with increased regional cooperation. This is why establishing concrete projects, measurable initiatives and innovative solutions within the water sector remains one of the main priorities for the UfM.

In line with the UfM Roadmap and the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Water (Valetta, 2017), the Secretariat aims to implement the adopted UfM Water Agenda to enhance regional cooperation towards sustainable and integrated water management in the UfM region, and more specifically "assist in promoting sustainable economic and social development and have significant employment benefits; help in tackling climate change impacts and increasing climate and disaster-resilience; in meeting environmental and water quality objectives; in tackling migration challenges, amongst and inside countries and in ensuring access to safe drinking water as a fundamental human right, particularly for the most vulnerable, as we continue to promote gender mainstreaming, focus on youth, transparency and improved accountability in the water sector." It is expected as well that the UfM Water Agenda will assist in improving access to finance to face the adverse impacts of water scarcity and the increased demand on the water resources, taking into account the international agenda of water and climate.

The UfM Secretariat will thus be working during the 2018-2020 timeframe on implementing a concrete framework of action, initiatives and action-oriented policy framework. It will thus seek to ensure a better coordination of water with other sectors and build synergies in order to achieve the targeted milestones with the 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG 6: *Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.* Furthermore, questions related to gender equality and women empowerment (SDG 5), reducing inequalities in the region (SDG 10) and environment and climate action (SDG 13) will be mainstreamed throughout the UfMS action in this priority area.

Within this context, the UfM seeks to enhance cooperation and ensure coherence with relevant partners and initiatives in the UfM region, including the World Water Forum (WWF), the PRIMA initiative for strategic research, the UN high-level panel for Water as well as other international partners.

Over the period of 2018-2020, efforts are made as well to develop initiatives highlighting the potential of the water sector for job creation and for an active implication of youth. As part of the development of the UfM Water Agenda, the Secretariat will support the advancement for labelling of projects providing real opportunities for preserving natural resources, enhancing job creation and improving the socio-economic situation in the region.

2019 specific objectives



Work throughout 2018 has been geared to meeting the mandate of the UfM Ministerial declaration on Water and specifically to progress in building consensus and ownership around draft work programs on each of the priority work areas agreed at the July 2017 meeting of the Water expert group, namely the Water, Energy, Food, Ecosystems Nexus (WEFE); Water Supply and Sanitation (WASH); Climate Change Adaptation and Water and Water Employment and Migration (WEM); as well as the Financial strategy.

Building on this work, and counting on the guidance of the Senior Officials, the objective during 2019 will be to start implementing the UfM Water agenda and its four priority work areas, and enable its continuous development, as it is a living document.

During 2019, the UfMS will also continue to define a program on Climate Change Adaptation and Water.

It is recalled that the UfM Water agenda consist of the following deliverables:

- a medium-term strategic Work Program on the priority areas identified by the WEG to provide a series of recommendations, proposals and initiatives helping UfM members to apply Integrated Water Resources Management approaches and to ensure a better coordination with other sectors in the UfM region,
- a detailed rolling biannual Work Plan, started in 2018;
- a financial strategy to support the implementation of the UfM Water Agenda, to promote the progressive deployment of financial resources and facilitate access to the existing financial resources across the UfM region.

The UfM Water agenda will include a number of initiatives as starting contributions for its implementation (UfM Nexus Atlas, Nexus program, WEM....) and will also provide a framework in which to progressively incorporate other initiatives in each priority sector. When such projects meet criteria for labelling, they may be considered as well in order to illustrate good practices on regional cooperation and create opportunities for advancing the Agenda.

A special focus will be put on UfM flagship projects, in particular the Gaza Desalination facility project, as its launching phase is oncoming.

i. <u>Promoting Regional Dialogue</u>

UfM Water Agenda

Regional policy dialogue is an integral part of the UfM Water agenda, both in terms of advancing a common understanding for policy challenges in the region, as well as to ensure continued ownership and implication of all UfM member states and international partners in the development of the work program. For this reason, the Secretariat will convene two Water expert group (WEG) meetings during 2019. The core agenda will necessarily be the follow up to the work in each of the priority work areas of the UfM Water agenda, but a specific focus will also be made during these meetings to ensure links with international initiatives on water and in other relevant sectors, such as climate change, and in developing initiatives to materialize the recommendation from the Financial strategy.



The task force meetings will be convened if necessary as the main fora for hands- on work on the priority work areas and presentation of proposals to the WEG. Meetings of the Task forces will be generally be convened ahead of each WEG meeting and continue to be based on voluntary participation by a limited number of Member states and partner organisations.

All the priority work areas include a number of initiatives already ongoing, included or foreseen in the respective priority work areas, as presented to the WEG and the SOM.

The Mediterranean Water Nexus Atlas is an initiative from the EU Joint Research center and UfMS, aiming at explaining the complex nexus between water, energy, food and ecosystems in the Mediterranean region. The Nexus Atlas will inspire both political and social actors and the general public's interest and participation in water issues, combining not only the efforts of scientists and researchers, but politicians and municipal stakeholders outreaching to the citizen in a new, accessible approach.

With the support of Swedish international development agency (SIDA), under the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus work plan a mapping study at regional and national level of the key partners and actions (on-going and planned) related to the Nexus sectors, as well as a regional scoping note detailing issues, needs and opportunities in the Mediterranean will be produced. It is also envisaged to organize regional and sub-regional conferences to facilitate nexus dialogues with interested countries, regional organizations and financing partners, aiming at identifying needs, initiatives and resources, including towards preparing a multi-component regional program or related projects in the UfM framework.

The Water, Employment and Migration (WEM) Task Force aims to assist tackling water challenges as root causes of unemployment leading to migration as well as migration and displacement impacts on water resources, contributing to sustainable development in the UfM region. Its objective is to increase water-related employability and entrepreneurship, particularly targeting youth, in countries of migration origin and migration transit, while promoting sustainable water management and gender equality objectives.

Additionally, within this priority work area the UfM will cooperate with partners such as CIHEAM - which has participated at meetings of the Task force on Water, employment and migration- as well as emerging networks of youth in the water sector, such as Young Water professionals, Youth water parliament, and other youth initiatives in order to provide focused training for youth in the water sector as a source for jobs, but also to mobilize youth who are increasingly engaged on the threats to water availability in the Mediterranean and foresee the possibility to establish the Med youth Water Parliament/Platform. In this regard, the UfMS will also follow up on the results of the 2018 Youth Forum for the Mediterranean, co-organized by the UfM and the Tarragona City Council, in the framework of the XVIII Mediterranean Games Tarragona 2018.

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Task Force aims to enhance integrated natural resources management as means for sustainable development in the UfM region. Its objective is to introduce and/or promote integrated approach for achieving water and sanitation SDGs, and to



catalyse action for its mainstreaming, financing and implementation in UfM Member States, at the national, local and regional levels.

Building on this new framework, the UfM will engage and partner with other water initiatives in the region seeking to create synergies and avoid duplications. Particular efforts will be made with partners such as the League of Arab States, 5+5 Dialogue, UN Economic council for Europe (UNECE), with international financial institutions active in the region as well, as with initiatives in the water sector from the EU with a view in all cases to drive forward the global sustainability agenda.

A Financial Strategy

In 2019, the UfMS will finalize the Financial strategy of the UfM Water Agenda, which will be used as a guiding document and to highlight concrete actions and initiatives with IFIs, donors, Member states and other stakeholders in order to address water financial needs across the UfM countries and create a more conducive environment for development of cooperation and investment. Synergies will be ensured with the ongoing PRPI (Pollution Reduction and Prevention Investment) process as part of the H2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean and other UfM financial initiatives in the urban, climate and environment sectors, and to ensure and facilitate cooperation between countries and with financial actors to mobilize partners for enhanced and new engagements on water and climate change-related investment and promoting novel funding instruments and tools.

In particular, complementarity will be sought with the work in the region on Governance and financing of the water sector from partners such as OECD, SIWI and GWP-Med, as well as the international financial institutions which have contributed to this initiative (EIB, WB, EBRD, AFD, as well as EC). The UfMS will convene the Financial Strategy Task Force during 2019 to develop and consolidate its contents.

Among the specific actions identified to support progress towards financial sustainability of the water sector in the Mediterranean region are:

- A regional study on the socio-economic impact of large water infrastructure projects in the Mediterranean
- A UfM High Level Regional Forum on Financing and Investments to be launched.
- A mapping study that will (i) map and estimate current financial flows, (ii) identify existing relevant international financial instruments, and (iii) will provide guidance on the procedures to apply for funding.
- A series of regional capacity development workshops focused on specific water financing topics, as well as country peer review studies analyzing the financial sustainability of the water sector in countries to volunteer to be peer reviewed and providing recommendations.
- > Towards consolidating a common Mediterranean water agenda in the region
 - In line with its past coordination role for the contribution of all Mediterranean countries to the 2018 edition of the World Water Forum and as part of it cooperation agreement with the IME (Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau) the UfMS will cooperate in the preparations for the next WWF, scheduled for 2021 in Dakar, Senegal. In a similar vein, the UfM will



promote and seek synergies with regional events on water, such as the Arab Water week, organized by the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA).

- The UfM Secretariat will work with Partners and member countries in order to make a significant contribution to the United Nation High Level Panel on water (UNHLP Water)
- The consolidation of the UfM role within the framework of the United Nation Economic Council for Europe (UNECE) work in the Task Force on integrated water resources management and water access, water and climate by continuing the cooperation from past years and taking advantage of the specific knowledge of UNECE in these topics at basin and regional level.
- In line with its cooperation with the UNESCO-WAP, and in order to integrate the regional development aspects on the world development report, UfM will cooperate with UNESCO-WAP in order to launch a regional study to assess the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean countries of SDG 6, to be integrated in the global Synthesis report.

ii. <u>Promoting Regional Projects and Initiatives</u>

The UfM Water agenda constitutes the overall framework in which existing and new projects can be inserted and provide for a coherent whole. In this regard, projects and initiatives described above as contributions to the UfM Water agenda may be considered as well for labelling, thus ensuring even closer coherence with overall UfM objectives and strengthened political support. Among the initiatives being discussed in this framework, one can anticipate that the work on developing a regional framework program on the Thematic Area of Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus, as well as the possible creation of a Nexus Infrastructure initiative, in close collaboration with and responding to priority needs of UfM Member States and stakeholders, could be considered for labelling.

The Secretariat will also continue to support existing projects that correspond to the objectives of the UfM Water agenda, continuing to work in terms of fundraising activities and overall facilitation of the projects, in close liaison with the project promoters and targeted donors, and will engage with partners to enrich the portfolio of labelled projects.

a. Monitoring of labelled projects/initiatives

> The **Desalination Facility for the Gaza Strip project** aims to provide more than 1.8 million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip with fresh water for domestic consumption, decrease overpumping and contribute to the regeneration of the coastal aquifer, which is the only natural source of water in Gaza. The large-scale desalination facility has been identified as the only viable alternative for drinking water supply in the Gaza Strip.

The project has currently matured to the stage that tendering for the design and build stage of the Central desalinization plant component is envisaged, at the same time as significant investments for associated works have already been launched. The project counts as well with political support from all parties to the project and a growing donor base, as was evidenced at the successful Donors conference convened by the EU with UfMS support on March 20, 2018.



Building on the progress achieved so far and on the current positive momentum, in 2019 the UfM Secretariat will focus its efforts on:

- continue engaging with donors that made pledges and potential donors in order to materialize pledges and close the funding gap.
- possibly launching the project during the course of the year with a view to provide a positive milestone signaling the beginning of its implementation phase.

Throughout the period, the UfM Secretariat will continue to exercise its facilitation role among the parties, especially in promoting and coordinating efforts at political and financial level through the international committee as well as developing outreach activities with all international financial institutions and partners.

> Governance and Financing in the Mediterranean Water Sector

On the basis of the inclusion of Governance and financing as transversal issues in the UfM Water agenda and taking into account the interest expressed by project beneficiaries, as well the close working relationship between the UfMS and the two main project promoters (OECD and GWP-Med), the UfM has endeavored to develop a second phase of this project, trying to secure funding at the same time as expanding its potential geographical scope. The project aims to deliver a set of country analyses and a regional action plan to improve public governance and attract investments to the water sector of the Mediterranean region. In particular, it aims at assessing opportunities and institutional and regulatory challenges arising from PPPs as a tool in the hands of policy makers to manage water resources and finance services in an effective, sustainable and affordable manner.

Following the successful implementation of the first phase of the capacity building program in Tunisia, Jordan and Palestine, consultations are being held for its possible extension in a second phase to potential interested countries, including Morocco, Egypt, Mauritania and Lebanon and possibly Albania.

> Capacity Building Program on Water Integrity in the Middle East and North Africa

Promoted by Stockholm International Water Institute, the overall objective of the project is to contribute to the implementation of integrated, equitable and sustainable water resources management through mentoring and capacity building on the implementation of water integrity principles. As part of overall efforts to ensure Water governance issues are tackled, the UfMS will continue supporting the continuity of this project, to assist in fundraising efforts and in bringing together stakeholders to push forward the project.

> The Mediterranean Water Knowledge Platform

This project aims to provide a common basis for the development of National Water Information Systems (NWIS) in four pilot countries from the Southern Mediterranean region.

The project has advanced as follows: Tunisia (implementation), Jordan and Morocco (definition studies and preparatory white papers and forms). Jordan is currently working on the development of the NWIS. Once fully implemented, this experience could be presented to other beneficiary countries. It is a project included in the 5+5 action plan on Water adopted in November 2016.



In 2019, the UfM Secretariat will continue its support to promoters for fund-raising activities as well as participation in the Regional workshop with all Med countries on national indicators used to monitor national water policy, and on existing or indicators suggested for monitoring or taking into consideration the 4 priority areas of the UfM water agenda into national (water) policies (WEFE nexus, WSS, Climate Change adaptation, employment and migration).

b. Development of the project pipeline

As described above the UfM Water agenda and the respective work programs for each of the priority areas constitute the overall framework for all projects in the water sector and in that regard, projects listed above and those expected to enrich the Agenda over the reporting period will be considered for labelling.

The UfM will also consider for labelling infrastructure projects coming from the PRPI/H2020 process and in line with the regional methodology identified by the UfMS. The LIFE Integrated Project "Optimising the implementation of the 2nd River basin management program in the Malta River Basin District", as well as the "Wetlands: their services and how to best protect and valorize them through a Nexus approach" from MEDWET, as well as the project from International Fund for Agricultural Development "Integrating multiple water sources and local institutions for enhanced food security in North Africa's hinterland by reinforcing agricultural & rural innovation systems" have been identified for potential labeling by the participating states and promoters to be aligned in accordance to the UfM water Agenda.

c. Other Initiatives and horizontal activities

- The UfMS will collaborate with UNESCO World Water Assessment Program (WWAP) and partners in countries surrounding the Mediterranean, in order to implement the project "Cooperation, knowledge exchange and learning for achieving of SDG6 in Mediterranean Countries" over the years 2019-2021. A joint "SDG 6 Synthesis report" for selected countries will be prepared thus providing an overview of the status of water issues, the main gaps on data, overall challenges and opportunities. Reflecting the UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report (launched in July 2018, coordinated by WWAP) produced for the global level, this report will also identify the main interlinkages between water and other SDGs, i.e. food and energy security, decent jobs and sustainable economic development, urbanization, climate change, etc. Other activities will include consultation workshops and the development of a platform for sharing lessons.
- The UfMS will engage with the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) of UN Habitat in order to study the possibility of advancing on the creation of a more structured relationship Mediterranean water operators, possibly through the creation of Mediterranean Water Operators' Partnerships Platform.



2.8. TOURISM: An opportunity for sustainable development in the Mediterranean

Strategic Objectives 2018-2020

Tourism is one of the world's largest industries and one of its fastest growing economic sectors. It has become an important sector that has an impact on the development of a country's economy and potentially on the region economic integration. For many countries tourism is seen as a key instrument for regional development, as it stimulates new economic activities. The main benefits of tourism are income creation and generation of jobs, which are an important source of welfare.

Just as tourism may have a positive economic impact on economic growth, particularly in employment, it may also have negative effects, predominantly on the environment. Being the major source of tourist product, environment should therefore be safeguarded in order to have further growth of tourism and sustainable development in the future.

Sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean calls therefore for a multidimensional concept. Tourism's horizontality must entail and address in an integrated way, all the aspects related to the co-evolution of human activities, natural systems in coastal and maritime areas, as well as boost the economic development for more growth and jobs creation, together with the cultural heritage aspect, which are all assets for tourist attractions of the *Mare Nostrum*.

Consequently, in line with the UfM mandate for tourism as foreseen in the 2017 UfM Roadmap, the importance of tourism for the economies of the countries of the region as well as the potential for growth and its impact on job creation, infrastructure and cultural understanding cannot be ignored. The consolidation and development of a sustainable tourism sector and tourism capabilities with its cross linkages with other sectors of the economy can contribute to the sustainable development of the Euro-Mediterranean region. Therefore, the UfM Secretariat will use its role as regional platform to coordinate and promote initiatives and concrete projects related to tourism within the UfM framework.

The overarching strategic objectives are:

• to promote tourism as a tool for economic growth, mobility, energy efficient, sustainable development, social inclusiveness, decent employment, poverty alleviation, and to increase the number of qualified professionals in the tourism industry;

• to bolster the links between sustainable tourism, cultural values, diversity and heritage as the building blocks for peace and security in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Through possible new regional initiatives and projects in this sector, the UfM Secretariat may build on the potential of tourism as a catalyst for positive change in the Mediterranean. If the dynamic proves positive and attracts interest, the perspective of a first UfM Ministerial Meeting on Tourism shall be further developed during the period 2018-2020. Through these actions, the UfMS will contribute to the implementation of SDG targets, in particular those that mention sustainable tourism, namely: SDG target 8.9 and 12.b. At a larger extent, it will also address SDGs 9, 11, 13 and 14.

2019 Specific objectives

The agenda towards promoting tourism as a tool for economic growth, sustainable development, cultural understanding and job creation for the Mediterranean's regional development and stability shall be pursued transversally through the following aims and actions:

- **Promotion of Dialogue and sharing of best practices** To enhance regional integration in the tourism sector among the Euro-Mediterranean countries not only through the North-South cooperation by means of an operational and inclusive approach but also by addressing the South-South cooperation and exchanges in this sector.
- **Fostering knowledge and information sharing** Plans to set up a regional platform for networks and experts in the Mediterranean region on tourism to facilitate regional integration, synergies, as well as providing networks for knowledge creation and exchange.
- Promote Tourism as a tool for economic growth and sustainable development To explore and identify potential initiatives at the horizontal sectors related to tourism to stimulate economic growth, promote entrepreneurship, create jobs, and kindle the role of the private sector while safeguarding the environment and cultural heritage.
- Building Partnerships To engage with the private sector, regional and local tourism organisations, academia, tourism experts and stakeholders. Moreover, to enhance regional integration especially among youth, to boost mobility and form a sustainable tourism sector.

These aims and objectives shall be implemented and put into effect through various initiatives that the UfM Secretariat intends to carry out during 2019:

- Following the first Brain Storming session on tourism held at the technical level in 2018, it transpired that similar meetings at the horizontal level with other Divisions need to convene on an annual basis with a view to promote regional dialogue, share best practices, develop initiatives and identify potential projects that can be labelled by the UfM. To this effect, a possible follow-up meeting at the technical experts' level involving stakeholders in the tourism sector shall convene in 2019. The technical expert meeting will serve as an exercise to share knowledge, exchange views on regional policies, and formulate areas of cooperation especially for tourism job creation and environmental issues.
- The dialogue and platform on tourism shall be supported and developed through a research study spread on two phases and over two years, provided that funds are available. The objectives of this research is to map tourism trends, to define and analyze the data and statistics of tourism for specified years in selected areas in a sample of six Mediterranean countries. The scope is to identify and establish tourists' preferred destinations in the region, reasons for travelling, tourism market segmentation, security risks and how the findings impact the local and regional economic development. The outcomes of the research study, data collection assessment and analyses will have an



added value to the UfM Roadmap objectives and the Euro-Mediterranean region namely to promote tourism as a tool for economic growth, mobility, sustainable development, social inclusiveness, job creativity and poverty alleviation. The overall and final findings will eventually be published, shared and discussed in future events and activities that the UfMS plans to hold.

The UfMS shall participate in conferences, meetings or workshops to deepen cooperation with partners like UNWTO and MTF, with whom MoUs have been signed in 2017. In this direction, bilateral meetings and active attendance in tourism events are also envisaged during 2019, in order to enlarge our strategic partners in this area and identify potential joint actions.

The UfM Secretariat shall continue to work to contribute to the discussion of opportunities and challenges of various tourism sectors of job creation, education, training, and environmental protection while harnessing and operationalizing the priorities on tourism as underlined in the UfM Roadmap for Action.

Given that tourism has cross linkages with other divisions in the UfMS, it will be dealt transversally.

i. <u>Promoting Regional Dialogue</u>

The UfM Secretariat will endeavour to play an active role in enhancing synergies and complementarities between the different existing regional and sub-regional policy dialogue fora, platforms and networks in order to improve overall coherence and avoid overlapping of resources.

In view of a potential high-level UfM meeting on Tourism related areas, and subject to the Co-Presidency's decision and the Member States, the UfM Secretariat will continue to contribute to the groundwork on tourism related matters through **specific ad-Hoc meetings** to discuss the opportunities and challenges of the various tourism sectors in terms of jobs creation, investments potential and environmental protection while harnessing and operationalizing the priorities on tourism as underlined in the endorsed 2017 UfM Roadmap.

ii. <u>Promoting Regional Projects and Initiatives</u>

Through its horizontal activities and initial meetings, the UfM Secretariat will strive to identify, develop and label regional projects in the field of tourism aimed to address the challenges in this sector while creating opportunities in terms of jobs creation, training, investments potential while also targeting sustainable development.

Selected relevant projects will be considered and promoted according to their coherence with the strategic approach. Moreover, a follow-up of all the projects and initiatives related to the field of tourism identified in the various UfM Secretariat sectors will be established. In addition, the UfM Secretariat will consolidate partnerships with relevant international and regional organizations.



Additionally, **on the horizontal level**, sustainable tourism will be addressed from the Blue Economy angle to boost sustainable coastal and maritime tourism in the Mediterranean, as well as from the Climate Change perspective to tackle climate issues related to tourism.



THIRD PART: REINFORCING UFM CAPACITY FOR ACTION



3.1. BUILDING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Union for the Mediterranean's institutional model is designed for it to act as a platform for dialogue and cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region. For this model to be successful, the Secretariat depends on the partnerships and cooperation that it can establish and develop with other institutions. This intertwined network of stakeholders allows for a small and agile structure such as the UfMS to actively work on a wide range of fields, promoting a deeper dialogue on a regional scale and supporting the implementation of projects of cooperation to the benefit of the peoples of the region.

Thus, building strategic partnerships with a growing number of institutions involved in regional cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean area has become an important dimension of the work of the Secretariat, given the pivotal role that partnerships have in the promotion and development of the UfM agenda.

In an effort to increase the visibility and impact of UfM activities in the region, the UfMS engages in strategic partnerships with key regional stakeholders. Specific focus is paid to;

i) institutional relations: the UfMS forges and strengthens its institutional relations with key global, regional and sub-regional stakeholders to position itself as a unique multi-stakeholder platform for regional dialogue and cooperation in the Mediterranean. In an effort to operationalise the UfM mandate and increase visibility and impact of its activities in the region, these partnerships focus mainly on enhancing relations with key actors involved in regional cooperation. Indeed, given the nature of the UfM label as a catalyst of projects, it is only by establishing cooperation links with other institutions and by reinforcing the existing synergies that the Secretariat will be able to consolidate and expand the initiatives it is developing.

The establishment of a growing number of cooperation ties with institutions in different fields of activity has demonstrated the credibility that the Secretariat has gained and the recognition by partners of the success of its initiatives and the quality of its work. Given that credibility, the UfMS is increasingly being approached by key actors not only in the Euro-Mediterranean area but also at the global level, such as UN agencies, the OECD and the World Bank among many others, to participate in the different UfM Regional Platforms, to co-organize joint events or even to have their projects in the Euro-Mediterranean region labelled by UfM Member-States. These ways of collaboration contribute to the strengthening of the work developed by the UfM and guarantee its coherence and contribution to the international efforts for the implementation of the SDGs.

ii) reinforcing strategic partnerships with key actors involved in regional cooperation: partnership agreements also play an important role in the efforts of the Secretariat to finance its initiatives and the projects labeled by its Member-States. A special attention is given to the reinforcement of partnerships with financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, which contribute to the operational budget of the Secretariat as well as to the implementation of labeled projects.



Furthermore, the UfMS seeks to build strategic partnerships with projects promoters, as well as to maintain an open dialogue with associated stakeholders.

i. INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

Strategic objectives 2018-2020

In its strategic vision 2018-2020, the UfM has the clear objective of expanding and consolidating its role as a regional platform for dialogue and for cooperation among key stakeholders involved in the region, through the strengthening of its relations with its immediate "Euro-Mediterranean eco-system", composed of relevant stakeholders involved in Euro-Mediterranean partnerships. This multi-stakeholder approach will be further developed by the UfM Secretariat in 2019 as an essential tool to consolidate and expand UfM activities in the region, as well as to give leverage to regional cooperation and develop effective and coordinated interactions between key Euro-Mediterranean actors.

The UfMS will also thrive to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Euro-Mediterranean region, reinforcing its joint actions with the most relevant agencies and institutions of the United Nations System. This will be particularly the case of UNDP, especially with its Regional Bureau for Arab Countries, the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC), the Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat), the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, (UNESCO) the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), among the numerous UN Agencies with whom the UfMS is currently developing joint work programs.

Further to these ongoing collaborations, a special attention will be given to the implementation of strategic Memoranda of Understanding that were recently signed with the OSCE and the Center for Mediterranean Integration of the World Bank. In the near future, new MoU with institutions like the OECD, WHO and IOM will be discussed to improve the capability of the UfMS to tap into these new fields of action.

Finally, the UfM Secretariat will aim at building more inclusive partnerships with non-governmental and other actors, either as partners in the regional policy dialogue forums, as participants in its technical platforms, or as promoters and partners of the UfM-labelled projects at the operational level.

2019 Specific objectives

The UfM Secretariat will further focus its efforts in 2019 on strengthening strategic institutional partnerships with a set of key identified and potential actors involved in Euro-Mediterranean cooperation:

Euro-Mediterranean Partnerships



The UfM Secretariat will continue to develop its institutional relationships with the UfM ecosystem, namely with its Parliamentary and territorial dimensions, as well as its connection with the social and cultural forces of the Euro-Mediterranean region:

- The Secretariat will continue its close interaction with the **Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA UfM)**. The establishment of a new permanent Secretariat in Rome, which will be inaugurated early 2019, will allow for a new level of interaction between the UfMS and the discussions of the PA-UfM and its specialized committees, to whom the UfMS will continue to provide support and substance. The Secretariat will also further develop its interactions with the **European Parliament and national Parliaments** of UfM Member States to ensure the visibility of the UfM work, reinforce the synergies with members of Parliaments and allow for their views to also be reflected in the work developed by the UfM.
- The UfMS will continue to work for the development of the local territorial dimension of the UfM, namely by further engaging with the Euro-Mediterranean Assembly of Regional and Local authorities (ARLEM) in areas such as energy, climate change, water and sustainable urban development, following on the agendas approved in recent UfM Ministerial meetings on those subjects. The UfMS will continue to support the development of the first "capacity building project" on urban development promoted by ARLEM.
- Closer ties with the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) will remain a strategic objective, to support the development of the cultural dimension of the UfM and the reinforcement of the intercultural and interreligious dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The participation of the President of the ALF in the III UfM Regional Forum paves the way for the reinforcement of joint-actions between the two institutions.
- The UfM Secretariat will maintain a close relationship with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), as well as with other economic and social councils (ESCs) of the region, in order to build strong networks and identify ways of cooperation, following up on the constructive interaction initiated through the participation of the UfMS in the Euromed Summits of Economic and Social Councils held in Greece in 2016 and in Madrid in 2017, as well as the growing participation of the EESC in UfM initiatives and events, notably in the UfM Ministerial on Employment and Labour held in Jordan in 2016, the 3rd UfM Social Dialogue Forum held in Brussels in October 2017 and the III UfM Regional Forum in October 2018. Cooperation with the Euromed ESC will be pivotal to the preparation of the foreseen 4th UfM Ministerial on Employment and Labour, to be held in Portugal in April 2019.
- UfM Secretariat will continue to develop its regional cooperation with the Council of Europe (CoE) on important thematic, such as gender equality, youth, civil society and intercultural dialogue. A special attention will be given to the development of joint actions with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC), namely as a follow up of the successful participation of the UfMS in the NSC's Conference on "Migrant, Refugee and"

Asylum-seeking Women and Girls in the EuroMed region", held in Athens (3-4 October 2018) and the Lisbon Forum 2018 on "Youth, Peace and Security" (15-16 November), as well as the NSC's participation in the 4th UfM Conference on Women, held in Lisbon (10-11 October 2018).

- The UfM Secretariat will continue to reinforce its cooperation with **the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)** in 2018, translating the compromise assumed by the signature of a MoU in October 2018 for the development of bilateral cooperation in the fields of economic cooperation, such as energy security, environment and climate change mitigation in the Mediterranean region, as well as the study of new initiatives in the fields of gender equality, youth engagement, education and research.
- The UfM Secretariat will also strengthen its relation with the **League of Arab States**, following the successful meetings of the UfM SG with his counterpart and the participation of the SG of the LAS in the III UfM Regional Forum.
- Cooperation with the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) continues to be reinforced in a number of sectors, particularly through the divisions of Water, Environment and Blue Economy, Energy and Climate Action and Business Development and Employment, to potentiate the synergies and the impact of the actions developed by the two institutions.
- The implementation of the MoU with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) is also foreseen, with the two institutions considering the organization of a joint event on a thematic of mutual interest.
- The implementation of the recently signed MoU with the **Center for Mediterranean Integration** of the World Bank **(CMI)**, to collaborate in joint initiatives in order to advance the cooperation to promote the integration and development of the Mediterranean region in the areas consistent with their mandates.

Global partnerships

Following the granting of the **Status of Observer to the General Assembly of the United Nations** to the UfM Secretariat in December 2015, the Secretariat will continue engaging with the UN System in 2019, participating in its different Fora in order to promote its projects and activities as well as further developing agreements and initiatives with a growing number of UN organs and specialized agencies, in a comprehensive effort to guarantee its coherence with and its contribution to the implementation of the SDGs in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The UfMS has developed close partnerships with several UN institutions, which have contributed to the success of UfMS initiatives and events or to the implementation of regional projects of cooperation. In 2019, these efforts will continue to be strengthened, in the following lines:

- The UfMS and UN-Habitat signed an MoU in 2016 to strengthen collaboration towards the definition of a regional strategy to implement the new UfM Urban Agenda. Both parties agreed to find common responses to the pressing challenges facing urban areas in the Euro-Mediterranean region and have identified several areas of collaboration. In 2019, both organizations will work towards further operationalizing the letter of Intent signed on the margins of the Second UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development in Cairo in May 2017, with the aim of catalyzing effective and coordinated support to countries and cities towards the common aim of harnessing urbanization as a solution to barriers to sustainable development.
- The UfMS signed a MoU with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) in January 2017 to further encourage South-South and triangular cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The institutions have since then partnered on a number of joint initiatives and events, namely the publication of the *South-South in Action* report entitled "the Union for the Mediterranean An Action-driven Organization for Regional Cooperation and Development", as well as the organization of the Regional Networking Forum for the Arab States, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on South-South and Triangular Cooperation. In 2019, the collaboration with UNOSSC will be further amplified and extended to new fields such as women and youth empowerment.
- The UfMS signed a partnership agreement with UNESCO in October 2015 with the aim of promoting initiatives and projects focused on youth, intercultural and interreligious dialogue. Discussions on concrete joint actions to be developed in 2019 are currently held between the two organizations in view of operationalizing their collaboration.
- An MoU was recently signed with the UNWTO to capitalize on the potential of tourism to enhance sustainable economic growth, social inclusiveness, decent employment, SMEs development and poverty alleviation. Technical meetings are envisaged for 2019 to identify potential joint actions.
- In the field of water, environment and blue economy, partnerships with UNEP/MAP, FAO/GFCM and UNCCD have been developed in the last years: In 2019, the UfMS will continue working with UNEP/MAP to promote activities on pollution prevention and control in Mediterranean coastal and marine waters, especially in the framework of the UfM-labelled project "Plastic Busters for a Mediterranean Free from Litter". Joint programmes are under development with FAO/GFCM and UNCCD on blue economy, and drought policy and land restoration respectively.

Added to these ongoing partnerships, the UfMS held, these last two years, meetings with other UN organizations in view of developing new collaborations that will contribute to the reinforcement of the role of the Secretariat at regional and global levels in key strategic fields:

- The UfM Secretariat has obtained Observer Status to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and actively participates in the Conference of



Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC as well as in its Standing Committee on Finance. In 2019, the two organizations envisage to implement joint actions in the framework of an MoU, currently under preparation

- The UfMS has been closely collaborating with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States in the last years on a number of initiatives, notably on women, youth and the prevention of violent extremism (PVE). A working meeting between both teams is foreseen for 2019, in view of identifying concrete areas for mutual collaboration and exploring the possibilities of formalizing the partnership between both organizations for the upcoming years.
- The UfMS works with WHO on the labelled project Women's Right to Health. The signature of a MoU and the organization of meetings at the UfM or WHO Headquarters, in Barcelona or Geneva respectively, are to be explored in 2019 to further enhance this partnership.
- A first meeting with IOM was held in New York on 27 September 2018 between the UfM Secretary General and IOM Director-General. Both parties agreed to organize a meeting in 2019 at the Headquarters of IOM in Geneva in view of identifying proposals of collaboration.

Furthermore, more strategic and coordinated cooperation with UNIDO, ILO, UN Women and other key stakeholders, with whom the UfMS is working in the fields of employment and job creation, youth and women empowerment, is foreseen to be developed in 2019.

Non-governmental and other actors

The UfM Secretariat aims at building more inclusive partnerships with **non-governmental and other actors**, either as partners in the regional policy dialogue fora, as participants in its technical platforms or as promoters and partners of the UfM-labelled projects at the operational level.

In this framework, the Secretariat will continue to widen and deepen its network of institutional and public affairs partnerships with organizations, associations, think tanks and initiatives throughout the region, such as the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), the Euro-Mediterranean network of think-tanks (EuroMeSCo), Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Istituto per gli studi di politica internazionale (ISPI), the Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME), BUSINESSMED, the Mediterranean World Economic Foresight Institute (IPEMED), Casa Árabe, Casa Mediterráneo, the Intermediterranean Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the Office of Economic Cooperation for the Mediterranean and the Middle East (OCEMO), the Agency for sustainable Mediterranean cities and territories (AVITEM), the European Energy Observatory, the Regional Center for Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, the Mediterranean Tourism Foundation, etc.



ii. <u>REINFORCING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH KEY ACTORS INVOLVED IN REGIONAL</u> <u>COOPERATION</u>

Strategic objectives 2018-2020

As part of its efforts to strengthening strategic institutional partnerships with a set of key potential donors for UfM activities and projects, the UfM Secretariat has begun a gradual move from project-specific fundraising activities to wider and more structured long-term partnerships with some of the region's major partners, liable to support UfM projects and activities on a thematic basis.

The objective of the UfM Secretariat during the period of 2018-2020 will be to build on tailored cooperation approaches as a support framework with partners and member countries drawing in particular on successful experiences concluded in 2017, such as the cooperation agreement signed with Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) as well as the joint declaration for an advisory project between the UfM and the German Ministry for Economy Cooperation (BMZ).

Over the coming period, the UfM Secretariat will strive to identify further opportunities to structure additional opportunities for tailored cooperation frameworks with a medium-term perspective based on the following assumptions:

- offer tailored partnership opportunities to member countries to support regional activities in the Euro Mediterranean region in sectors of common interest through the UfM umbrella;
- 2. provide financial support to ease the budgetary constraints of the UfMS, ensuring the effectiveness and broadening of the activities and allowing to better plan ahead;
- 3. represent an opportunity for member countries/specific partners to further engage in activities, approach and work of the UfM;
- 4. build on the Secretariat's proven capacity for sound financial management and capacity to monitor, , notably the impact and added-value, to implement and follow-up on the priorities engaged by member States, the Co-Presidency and involved stakeholders throughout its activities (regional dialogue activities as well as projects).

As part of its funding strategy, the UfMS will intensify bilateral exchanges with financial partners throughout the period 2018-2020, focusing primarily on high potential ones, as well as explore any innovative ways of additional funding for UfM Secretariat activities and projects.

2019 Specific objectives

The UfM Secretariat will further focus its efforts in 2019 on strengthening strategic institutional partnerships with a set of key identified and potential donors for UfM activities and projects:

1. Reinforcing partnerships with financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors With an increase in interactions with key partners and financial institutions, the UfM Secretariat will aim to further optimizing the existing privileged partnerships in view of creating synergies and a positive dynamic around key issues in the region.



Multi-annual Cooperation Agreement with the Swedish International Development Agency

The multi-annual cooperation agreement between the UfM Secretariat and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) over the period 2017-2020 is aimed at enhancing and amplifying UfMS regional activities, providing targeted financial support to regional dialogues and cooperation, with a specific focus on MENA countries, in three priority areas of common interest, namely women empowerment, water/environment/blue economy and energy/climate action.

After two years of implementation, the cooperation agreement is performing positively. The work plan for the year 2019 is formulated in coherence with the 2019 Work Program of the UfM Secretariat and will be implemented according to the priorities jointly defined with Sida.

Financial Agreement with Norway

The funding agreement with the Norwegian Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs covers labelled projects carried out by the UfM Secretariat in the field of gender equality. Signed in 2014, the first phase of the agreement comes to an end in December 2018.

A renewed and enlarged agreement is under negotiation, to finance labelled projects addressing women and youth empowerment and strengthening gender equality in particular in North Africa, for the period 2019-2021.

> Joint declaration with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Germany and the UfM expressed their intention to join forces to promote regional exchanges on employment and trade among private-sector, civil-society and government actors in the Mediterranean through a joint declaration. In order to operationalize this cooperation, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is supporting the UfM Secretariat with technical support provided through *Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GiZ) with a focus on trade and employment. An annual operational work plan is being jointly drafted between the mobilized GiZ expert and the UfM Secretariat.

2. Reinforcing partnerships with promoters of UfM labelled (or to be labelled) projects

With 54 labelled projects reached by November 2018, the UfM Secretariat will continue to structure its approach aiming to closely associate the growing community of project promoters to regular consultation mechanisms.

In 2019, the UfM Secretariat is expecting to continue this trend, focusing particularly on establishing partnerships with institutions and actors promoting concrete programs, projects and initiatives matching UfM priorities as well as expanding its outreach and amplifying existing actions.



3.2. TRANSVERSAL ACTIVITIES

i. <u>MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT: MINIMIZING THE ADVERSE DRIVERS OF FORCED</u> <u>DISPLACEMENT</u>

In line with the *UfM roadmap for action*, the UfM Secretariat will start, within the framework of the WP2019, to contribute to addressing the root causes of irregular migration. The UfM Secretariat will explore how macro-regional strategies for sustainable development in the Euro-Mediterranean region could contribute to minimizing adverse drivers and structural factors of forced human movements in and around the Euro-Mediterranean region, including internal displacement, relocation or cross-border migration. The UfM Secretariat will mainstream this dimension across the actions identified in Parts I & II of its Work Programme, as and when applicable.

In this context, the Secretariat will examine how a framework for strategic early warning and sustainable development planning on displacement could be devised to identify current/emerging structural risk factors, and to mitigate consequences of existing/evolving situations in and around the Euro-Mediterranean region with a potential to trigger forced displacement; also how a strategic approach to capacity development could be devised for minimizing the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to displacement.

Objectives and expected outcomes for 2019

The UfM Secretariat will aim to contribute, within the limits of available resources, to the following specific objectives:

Objective 1: Stimulate and awaken commitment to regional cooperation and action, specifically to minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to displacement.

Objective 2: Start building strategic partnerships through horizontal activities.

The UfM Secretariat will explore the possibility of building strategic partnerships with key stakeholders, and will aim to convene an UfM Expert Working Group on displacement to draft a report and action plan on the implementation of this mandate, with the assistance and support of a knowledge-partner and/or an external technical consultant in conducting analytical work and managing the process, and in consultation and cooperation with key international and regional stakeholders, including IFIs.

The UfM Secretariat will participate in the Sixth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2019), which will take place in Geneva, on 13-17 May 2019, under the theme *"Resilience Dividend: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Societies"*. The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which is led by UNISDR, and meets every two years, is the main global forum for disaster risk reduction and for the provision of strategic and coherent guidance for the implementation of the Sendai Framework, and for sharing experiences and best practices among stakeholders.

ii. <u>CIVIL PROTECTION</u>



The Mediterranean Basin is a risk prone area that could particularly be affected by many natural disasters, man-made or natural disasters. Civil protection expertise is available in some countries, but is not well enough shared. The EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM) allows a well-defined and structured cooperation among its members but it concerns only a couple of associated Members non EU members. No such mechanism exists at the level of the UfM.

However, Civil protection is one of the 6 priority areas of the Secretariat of the UfM, defined by the Summit of the heads of State and Government that took place in July 2008 and created the UfM, as a continuation of the Barcelona Process.

Relaunching the regional cooperation in this field will concretise a solidarity policy taking into account the comprehensive approach decided by the Directors-general for civil protection during their last meeting in this format, in May 2010 and that encompasses prevention, early warning, training, preparation to operational cooperation.

Objectives and expected outcomes for 2019

After several exchanges and ongoing discussions with the European Commission (DG ECHO and DG Near) during 2018, the need to strengthen the links between the EUCPM and the neighboring countries appeared pertinent and necessary. The regional platform offered by the UfM was considered the right format by the EU Commission.

Therefore, a meeting (the 3rd one since 2008) of the Directors-general of Civil protection of the member States of the UfM will take place in the premises of the Secretariat on the 12th of February 2019, as presented and approved by the SOM in September 2018.

It will allow the participants to take stock of the regional cooperation since their last meeting in 2010. Directors-general will then discuss several topics:

- How to increase resilience of Mediterranean countries
- Preparedness for response through capacity development
- How to strengthen citizens 'awareness and involvement in disaster prevention, preparedness and response by empowering volunteers or youth
- Promotion of efficient international assistance in case of disasters

The outcome of this meeting should be a concrete, humble and realistic plan of action to guide our cooperation for the year to come. A follow-up meeting should therefore be foreseen before the end of 2019, probably focusing on specific aspects and open to partners, civil society, NGO, private sector.



3.3. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

i. PROJECT PROCESSES and REFLECTION ON THE LABEL

Strategic objectives 2018-2020

The UfM Secretariat' long-term objective is to consolidate a recognised UfM label, with clear, acknowledged and visible added-value in view of promoting quality projects and activities in line with Ministerial commitments and strategic priorities as well as to provide a tangible contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. The UfM Secretariat is continuously working to consolidate the existing pipeline of projects with a particular effort on concentrating on high-potential and sustainable actions with real impact to consolidate and complement existing efforts.

2019 Specific objectives

In 2019 the UfM Secretariat will aim to ensure the effective application of the decisions taken by Member countries with regards to the reflection process on the revision of the UfM label, finalised in October 2018, and to optimise and adapt its internal project processing methodology accordingly, always relying on a solid project governance system.

> Reporting, monitoring and visibility through a consolidated Project Monitoring System

In 2018 the documents guiding the UfM labelling (*the UfM Project Guidelines* and *the UfM Project Criteria*) were updated in line with the agreed revision approved by the SOM.

The Project Monitoring System as established tool for project management and information has been consolidated in recent years in order to meet the growing need for validated information and coherent and horizontal output on projects.

Continuous effort will be undertaken internally to ensure that the system remains relevant, updated and useful in view of providing an accurate and reliable overview of UfM activities in this field.

The system will be adapted to any arising needs or discussions in line with the Reflection on the UfM label, with specific attention being paid to measuring regional impact and demonstrate the link between UfM-labelled projects and wider policy recommendations, programmes and initiatives. A specific technical assistance to constantly monitor the system will be put in place over a 3 years' period.

UfM Senior Officials will continue to be updated through the specific access created in 2017, providing them with a clear and concise overview of project activities and advancements.



Strategic objective 2018-2020

External audits on the UfM Secretariat's accounts, procedures and use of funds are positive and with unqualified opinions. While ensuring the sound financial management of its resources, the Secretariat is putting in place, in the context of its Annual Work Programme, a multiyear global strategy for its internal management, structured around three pillars:

- i) improving the internal mechanisms of activities' governance, accountability and compliance with internationally recognized standards,
- ii) enhancing the quality of its processes and instruments towards optimization of resources, and
- capacity building to strengthen means to reinforce its role of platform and focal point of multi-sources funding and to manage the diversification of its resources.

This strategy sets out several targeted areas where improvement and progress are envisaged with a view to bringing in a more efficient and effective internal management system (Corporate and support services; Budget; Rules of Procedure; Archiving System; Business Continuity Plan; Financial and Monitoring System including data protection system and procedures; Internal Control System; Transparency and Accountability Initiatives; HR Policies and Procedures and Compliance and Legal Procedures).

2019 specific objectives and major actions

Taking into account the different levels of progress during previous years in terms of internal management and under the multiyear strategy pillars, 2019's main objectives focus on the following directions:

- Implementation capacities optimization: streamline and reinforce the capacities of the Secretariat both in terms of processes, frameworks, working methods and in terms of corporate and logistical support in order to better implement its activities and fulfil mandates given by the Member States.
- Sustain a sound internal and financial management in order to ensure compliance with applicable rules and regulations, in particular following the internal legal update approved by the Senior Officials in July 2018 and increased accountability requirements resulting from activities and partnerships growth as well as from diversification of funding sources and mechanisms.
- Reinforcement of digitalization and optimization of ICT components

Throughout previous years, the UfM Secretariat has put in place several applications, databases and tools (financial and accounting systems, database of Memoranda of Understanding and Agreements, Project Monitoring System, etc.) to better manage, monitor and report on its activities, and made further efforts, especially during 2016, 2017 and 2018 to operationalize them to its profile of business, notably through:

- An internal management team, put in place to follow up this technical support and manage the functioning and the improvement of the financial system, composed, as per



best practices, of a *functional focal point* dealing with functionalities of the system (an officer from Finance and Contract team) and a *technical focal point* dealing with IT administration of the application (ICT development officer from Support Service team). As a result of the mechanism mentioned above, two releases of upgrade and improvement of the financial system, after a period of tests, have been deployed into production and are currently fully operational.

- An intranet portal developed internally, with internal documentation and useful internal information for the staff. This intranet includes a tool for office map management, point for access to different applications, tool for meeting rooms booking, tool for internal communication and sharing as well as access to rules and regulations documents.
- A Wifi solution through new devices, enabling the aggregation of 24 different access points controlled through a unified control panel that allows optimization of available capacity and ensuring high level security.

In line with the implemented actions mentioned above, during 2019:

In order to enhance the interplay and interconnection between applications in the perspective to centralize data for management use, and following technical analysis during 2018, a solution including components of privacy by design will be developed for the integration of the Financial System application and the Accounting System application via an appropriate interface. This integration will ensure more security for the transactions along with confidentiality, availability and integrity with data finally stored in the accounting system in the sense that accounts are only affected by authorized transactions processed in the financial system. It will support the reduction of manual processing and reduce transactions' time especially in terms of issuing payments through bank transfers.

A Documents' management application is going to be developed internally and progressively in order to better manage, use and safeguard all documents of the Institution in terms of working documents, technical, legal and administrative documents, studies and analysis papers in an organized manner. The documents' management is a second phase following electronic filing allowed by the financial system (all documents of technical nature and administrative nature are saved in the expenditure cycle in the financial system) that will enable an optimized use of available documents and institutional memory. At another level, the documents' management solution will ensure security and integrity of available data as it will allow the use of copies while safeguarding originals. The exploitation of documents capital of the Institution will be made easier and optimized through the interface of the documents' management application.

The Internal Portal developed in 2018 will be further enlarged and optimized to include on one hand more capabilities of devices allocation, inventory and management and on the other hand more functionalities such as the creation of a unified database for the management of institutional external contacts asset, with the scope of insuring the persistence of data, the control of rights and the organization of the external contacts lifecycle.

Likewise, all ICT services and assets will be streamlined through progressive alignment to internationally recognized standards such as ITIL (Information Technology Infrastructure Library) with the necessary adaptation to UfMS profile of business. This compliance process with



international standards will ensure a professionalization of all IT working methods, investment and management actions and better rationalize new actions benefiting from high level and up to date methods (enabling better needs analysis, better selection of solutions and technologies and rational for the equation of in-house activities and outsources ones) and provide framework allowing a strategic planning on the matter. The adoption of ITIL targets the improvement of the level of service provided by IT team with the definition of SLOS (Service Level Objectives).

These efforts are being accompanied by a progressive update and adaptation of the Secretariat's internal procedures, circulars and manuals to reflect automated processes and authorization workflow.

Investing in internal capacities and optimization of resources

During 2018 and in the context of diversifying and adapting its instruments of technical support to better ensure proper follow up and monitoring of its increasing activities, the Secretariat finalized the set-up of procedures for the implementation of expertise and support actions through its Roaster of Experts, taking advantage of launching efforts in 2017 and 2018.

Continuing enriching the database with additional experts in the different fields of the Secretariat's work including topics addressed in the UfM Roadmap and encouraging the geographical balance will be the key actions during 2019.

In order to accompany the activities growth, the UfM Secretariat's general resources, logistics and support services are being further optimized and enhanced in terms of equipment and facility services and working space. As initiated in 2017 and 2018 (finalization of the archiving room, video conference, data centers, etc.), efforts made in terms of allocating additional working space with subsequent facility services -renting temporary working space- as well as fitting out works, facility services and telecommunications related. In this respect, during 2019, necessary actions will be taken to accompany the re-allocation plan and putting in place support actions to facilitate work in two sites.

Likewise, the Secretariat's human resources evolve within the framework of lean management to mitigate normal turnover of its staff members and to meet activities' needs namely the project and initiatives portfolio growth, requirements of cooperation programmes with partner institutions, regional dialogue processes and to answer related implementation challenges. In this regard, in 2019 further efforts both in terms of secondments and targeted recruitments in fields where expertise and support are most needed and critical will be made in accordance with limited resources and including internal recruitment and internal mobility deploying existing staff to areas with emerging needs.

In this context, the update of the Secretariat's legal framework was finalized in 2018 in line with best practices in similar institutions and inter-governmental organizations following a long process of preparation during 2016-2017 and covering its Statutes and Staff Regulations and introducing Implementing Rules for the Staff Regulations as well as a Code of Conduct and an Anti-Fraud and Anticorruption Policy, aiming at aligning the legal framework with the current Secretariat's profile



in terms of portfolio activities growth and simplifying and harmonizing the regulations for the better fulfillment of principles of equal treatment and accountability, as well as supporting efforts for geographical balance and promotion of ethical culture. This update will be implemented progressively based on ordered internal action plan paying due regards to its main objectives, to needs to ensure business continuity and budget constraints.

Continuous, sustainable sound financial management and streamlining internal processes

Results of successive external audits on the Secretariat's accounts, use of funds and processes are positive and with unqualified opinions.

This sound management is continuous. In this respect, auditing processes covering the Secretariat's financial statements prepared under IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards) and expenditure verifications have been further enhanced during 2018 through dedicated audits as per grant and cooperation agreements as well as by fostering a comprehensive approach of its accounting system under IPSAS, allowing thus a full picture of its resources and financial situation.

During 2019, risk management and internal control framework as well as simplification and streamlining the Secretariat's internal processes and procedures, will be further enlarged towards more comprehensive policies and internal processes, notably business continuity plan and internal control standards as per internationally recognized standards adapted to the UfM Secretariat context.

Likewise, budgeting and financial management processes, in continuation of steps taken, will be enhanced through enlarging progressively the scope of Activity Based Budgeting (ABB) methodology to the whole of the Secretariat's budget in terms of resources allocations, so that the budget structure reflects the activity profile and use of funds of the Organization.

iii. COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Strategic objectives 2018-2020

Communication and visibility will be at the centre of the Secretariat's future endeavours and as such the strategic objectives of the Communication & Public Affairs Unit will be aligned with the UfM Secretariat's mission and vision as an institution thriving for regional cooperation and integration, while placing youth at the heart of the Mediterranean agenda.

The Secretariat's public affairs and communication activities will stress the overarching message that there is a renewed momentum for a positive agenda in the region, given the role of the UfM in the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda in the Mediterranean region.



The UfM Secretariat will ensure that the UfM key audiences are fully informed and engaged in the mission, challenges and achievements of the UfM Secretariat, with the following specific objectives:

- Position the image of the UfM Secretariat as the action-oriented intergovernmental Euro-Mediterranean organisation that enhances regional dialogue and cooperation addressing the three key interrelated priorities in the Mediterranean region: regional stability, human development and integration;
- Inform and engage regularly the UfM consolidated network in the UfM Secretariat activities to highlight the strong political support to the institution, taking the opportunity of Ministerial Conferences to highlight the development of sectorial regional agendas;
- Raise awareness on the achievements of the UfM Secretariat, increasing the visibility and overall understanding of UfM activities, projects and initiatives among its key target audiences and the general public;
- Highlight success stories as concrete and tangible examples of strengthened regional cooperation and highlight actions towards human development and sustainable development and engage with key opinion leaders to amplify positive messages.

The key audiences of the UfM Secretariat will be the following:

- Government, Ministers, Senior Officials, Parliamentarians, civil servants, etc.
- Other institutional bodies: International Organisations.
- Financial Institutions: IFIs, sovereign funds, local banks, etc.
- Opinion leaders: Think Tanks, researchers, experts, policy analysts.
- Non-governmental stakeholders and civil society organisations.
- Private sector.
- Influential journalists and media actors.
- Youth, as a transversal component to be integrated into all key audiences

2019 Specific objectives

In 2019 the UfM Secretariat will follow the strategic objectives set though the following actions:

> IDENTIFY: Map the key audiences of the UfM Secretariat in the Mediterranean region

A qualitative and dynamic database is a pre-requisite for the multi-stakeholder networking methodology characterizing the UfM Secretariat, requiring regular update, identification and segmentation of key target partners and audiences to ensure the proper implementation of the UfM Secretariat activities, whether it is to involve them in a project, invite them to an event, or inform them of a specific UfM Secretariat activity related to their field of expertise.

Taking the stakeholders' mapping a step further, and strong of a consolidated database of 25.000 contacts, the Communication & Public Affairs unit could in 2019 focus on further strengthening the effectiveness of its outreach content and engagement through a thorough geographical segmentation of key messages and calls to action.



> INFORM: Actively inform the key audiences about the activities of the UfM Secretariat

Media

The UfM Secretariat has developed an active press office activity over the last years mainly based on the dissemination of information in different languages, publication of interviews and articles, identification of media contacts, as well as on relationship-building through the organisation of meetings, briefings and field trips.

In 2019, the Secretariat will put a special emphasis on identifying and targeting selected renowned and influencing journalists in different countries from across the region with the aim to raise awareness, increase visibility and ensure understanding of the UfM's role and activities.

Likewise, the Secretariat will continue building on its media strategy throughout the year with a focus on the following press actions:

- The dissemination of information about main achievements and relevant activities carried out by the UfM
- The publication of articles and interviews with UfM representatives and participants in UfM activities in renowned media
- The arrangement of informative meetings with relevant media across the region with the aim of building relations and ensuring visibility of UfM activities
- The organisation of incoming visits to the UfM Secretariat and field trips to UfM events and/or projects on the ground

\rm Website

The UfM website is the centre of the UfM Secretariat's digital communication as it centralises all the information about the institution and its different activities.

Beginning of 2018, a new website was launched that was further developed during the year to improve its design and usability in order to reach more targeted audiences in all 43 members, through giving more visibility to beneficiaries, success stories and projects on the ground.

The new website presented a new structure to showcase policy, platforms and projects but also to enhance Search Engine Optimization (SEO) resulting in now over 15'000 users a month, coming mostly from Spain, France, Belgium, Morocco, Italy, Egypt and Tunisia. The improvement of SEO in all posts and pages should continue throughout 2019 with all the new content added on a daily basis to ensure the visibility of the UfM website and its content on search engine results pages, especially Google.

The site's mobile adaptation, navigation and internal links were also adjusted to improve both the user experience and the visibility, resulting in an increase of 18% more visitors in 2018 from mobile phones and tablets. Users coming from mobile devices (including both mobile phones and tablet)



are expected to further increase in 2019 and therefore all news pages, events, designs, forms, etc. will be adapted.

In 2019, the new website will showcase content with more visual adaptations such as new landing pages, specific event pages, more infographics, animations, more designs adapted to content and more cross-embedding of content between UfM social media channels and the UfM website.

🜲 Mailing / Emailing

The UfM Secretariat partners are kept informed of UfM activities through the regular diffusion of newsletters and sectorial bulletins. In 2018, the UfM Secretariat has sent trimestral institutional newsletter, as well as sectorial ones back to back with major events to its database of more than 25.000 contacts.

Through the development of the institutional database and the study of the analytics of the newsletters, the mailing and emailing strategy will be strengthened in 2019 to amplify the knowledge provided on UfM Secretariat activities to its stakeholders.

Publications

The UfM Secretariat institutional publications, such as the Annual Report, the institutional brochure & leaflet, the press kit, the newsletters, as well as the visual identity guidelines are valuable tools to present the UfM Secretariat activities to external stakeholders, thus serving a double purpose of information on the UfM Secretariat endeavours and recognition of the institution's visual signature.

Furthermore, the UfM Secretariat sectorial publications have experienced a steady growth for the past two years, resulting in a diversity of documents focusing both on Human and Sustainable development, such as sectorial reports, expert studies, watchletters and co-produced publications, thus reinforcing ties with partners in the region.











In 2019, following the strategic approach aiming at placing the UfM Secretariat as the reference expert of the Mediterranean region, sectorial divisions will continue seeking new partnerships for the production of sectorial reports and studies, while institutional publications will be updated and improved to reflect the ongoing activities of the UfM Secretariat.

All UfM Secretariat publications are available on the website (http://UfMsecretariat.org/info-center/publications/).

22ENGAGE: Detect opportunities for the reinforcement of ties with stakeholders, design and implement high impact actions to ensure their engagement



As a platform for dialogue, the UfMS gathers annually thousands of stakeholders, in workshops, seminar, field visits and high level conferences. 2018 marked the 10th anniversary of the creation of the Union for the Mediterranean, thus becoming the framework of multiple outreach actions designed around the UfM endeavours and achievements for the past 10 years, while opening the path to future collaborations and partnerships in view of a stable Mediterranean region and the well-being of its peoples.

In 2019, the UfM Secretariat will implement an outreach action plan in line with its calendar of activities, the activities in the region and possible synergies with other partners that will increase the awareness, dissemination and visibility of UfM Secretariat activities in order to foster strong political and institutional support from a consolidated network of stakeholders (government members, opinion leaders, influencers and message multipliers).

Social media

Public Affairs

Over the past few years, the UfM Secretariat followers' database and interactions have considerably increased. The priority social networks for the UfM Secretariat are Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn as key vehicles present in both the North and the South to target the media, opinion



leaders, stakeholders, policymakers, experts and professionals. The UfM Secretariat also uses Flickr and YouTube as channels to stock and share high-resolution pictures and videos.

In a first phase, from 2012 to 2017, social media strategy focused on creating good profiles and increase the followers' database. Starting in 2018, the UfM Secretariat started a second phase and has developed a new a strategy consisting on not only increasing database but also creating engagement and interaction with the users. Comparing with the with previous years, 2018 saw an increase on social media interactions of over 70% on Facebook, 10% on twitter and 160% on LinkedIn¹⁷.

In 2019, the UfM Secretariat will continue to reach out to its key audiences through Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, in order to give timely visibility to UfM Secretariat activities.

While consolidating its followers base, the UfM will continue to work on seeking more interaction, engagement and positive advocacy (mentions, retweets, likes, etc.), especially with UfM Secretariat project promoters, potential donors, key partners, stakeholders and advocates.

4. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: LABELLED PROJECTS (Status November 2018)

LB : labelled LC : launched

Name	Promoter	Project status	Priority area	Date of
				labelling
LB Scaling up forest and	Food and Agriculture	Validation by	P Environment	20/09/2018
landscape restoration in	Organization of the United	Senior	and Water	
order to restore	Nations (FAO)	Officials		

¹⁷ Twitter engagement rates are traditionally low and slow to increase than on other social media platforms due posting frequency



biodiversity and promote joint mitigation and adaptation approaches in the Mediterranean				
LB Euro-Mediterranean Smart City Innovation Centres	Euromed Cities Network	Validation by Senior Officials	Transport and Urban Development	20/09/2018
LB Enhancing the social action of youth and women towards the regional stability	British Council	Identification	Social and Civil Affairs	20/09/2018
LB Med Coasts for Blue Growth	CPMR Intermediterranean Commission	Technical and Financial Fine- tuning	P Environment and Water	11/12/2017
LC INCORPORA, a labour integration program	"La Caixa" Banking Foundation (La Caixa)	Technical and Financial Fine- tuning	Business Development	16/10/2017
C Animation et coordination du réseau SIEMED (Soutien aux Initiatives Entrepreneuriales en Méditerranée)	ACIM (ACIM)	Technical and Financial Fine- tuning	Business Development	16/10/2017
LC TransLogMED	European School of Short Sea Shipping (2e3s)	Project Launch	Transport and Urban Development	16/10/2017
LB Fostering SME competitiveness and trade in the Agadir Agreement member countries phase 1 - pilot phase	Agadir Technical Unit (ATU)	Technical and Financial Fine- tuning	Business Development	14/10/2016
LB UPFI Izmir Urban Integrated Waste Management Project	Izmir Metropolitan Municipality (IMM)	Technical and Financial Fine- tuning	Transport and Urban Development	14/10/2016
Elaboration and implementation of a demand-driven toolbox for youth-orientated, innovative labour market services in the MENA region - "Toolbox Project" (TP)	German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ)	Monitoring and Support	Business Development	01/06/2016



	-			
LC Eastern Mediterranean	Hakfar Hayarok	Technical and	合 Higher	01/06/2016
International School		Financial Fine-	Education and	
		tuning	Research	
LB MoS OPTIMED	Autonomous Region of	Technical and	Transport	01/06/2016
IMPLEMENTATION -	Sardinia	Financial Fine-	and Urban	
Towards a new		tuning		
Mediterranean Corridor:		5	Development	
from South-Eastern to				
North-Western ports				
LB UPFI Multi-Site	Municipality of Jericho	Technical and	Main Transport	01/06/2016
Regeneration Project in		Financial Fine-		- ,,
Jericho		tuning		
	Furencen Deals for	-	Development	10/02/2010
LC SEMed Private	European Bank for	Monitoring	Energy and	16/02/2016
Renewable Energy	Reconstruction and	and Support	Climate Action	
Framework	Development (EBRD/BERD) Turkish Chamber of	Technical and		16/02/2010
LB MoS - Design and		Financial Fine-	Transport	16/02/2016
implementation of	Commerce in Italy		and Urban	
"Motorway of Sea"		tuning	Development	
services between the ports				
of Izmir (Turkey), ports of				
Bari, Brindisi and Taranto				
(Italy) and the ports of La				
Goulette and Rades				
(Tunisia)	MED Solutions network,	Droiget		10/02/2010
LC Plastic Busters for a	,	Project	T Environment	16/02/2016
Mediterranean free from	University of Siena (Italy)	Launch	and Water	
litter LC Women's Right To	(UN SDSN Mediterranean)	Drojact	<i>(</i>)	16/02/2016
Health	WHO Collaborating Center for early detection and	Project Launch	Social and	10/02/2010
nealth	cancer screening (CPO)	Launch	Civil Affairs	
LC UfM Energy University	Schneider Electric Global	Monitoring	*	27/11/2015
by Schneider Electric	(Schneider)	and Support	Energy and	21/11/2013
			Climate Action	
LC UNIDO Women	United Nations Industrial	Monitoring	Social and	27/11/2015
Economic Empowerment	Development Organization	and Support	Civil Affairs	
in the MENA Region	(UNIDO)			
LC EUROMED Invest	ANIMA Investment Network	Monitoring	😳 Business	27/11/2015
Promotion & Observatory -	(ANIMA Investment	and Support	Development	
EMIPO	Network)			
LC Economic Development	ANIMA Investment Network	Monitoring	😳 Business	27/11/2015
through Inclusive and Local	(ANIMA Investment	and Support	Development	
Empowerment - EDILE -	Network)			
Phase 1				



LC Femmes d'Avenir	Sciences Po Paris	Monitoring	Social and	24/05/2015
		and Support	Civil Affairs	
LB CEED Empowering	CEED Global	Technical and	Social and	24/05/2015
Women in Business		Financial Fine-		,,
		tuning	Civil Affairs	
LB UPFI Development	Bouregreg Valley	Technical and	A A _	24/05/2015
Project for Phase 3 of the	Development Agency (AAVB)	Financial Fine-	Transport	24/03/2013
Bouregreg Valley		tuning	and Urban	
Development Plan		tuning	Development	
LB Med4Jobs - Regional	Business Development	Technical and	8	31/03/2015
Youth Employability	Center (BDC)	Financial Fine-	😳 Business	51/05/2015
Program - Maharat	Center (BDC)	tuning	Development	
LC High Opportunity for	Mediterranean Network of	Monitoring		04/12/2014
Mediterranean Executives		_	Tigher 🎦	04/12/2014
	Engineering	and Support	Education and	
Recruitment	Schools/Universities (RMEI)		Research	
LC Capacity Building	Stockholm International	Monitoring	P Environment	04/12/2014
Programme on Water	Water Institute (SIWI)	and Support	and Water	
Integrity in the Middle East				
and North Africa				
LC Med4Jobs - Réseau	Reseau Entreprendre	Monitoring	😳 Business	04/12/2014
Entreprendre en	International (REI)	and Support	Development	
Mediterranée				
LB UPFI Sfax Taparura	Society for the Study and	Technical and	► Transport	04/12/2014
Project	Development of the North	Financial Fine-	and Urban	
	Coast of the city of Sfax	tuning	Development	
	(SEACNVS)			
LC Méditerranée Nouvelle	European Institute of	Monitoring	Aigher	04/12/2014
Chance II	Cooperation and	and Support	Education and	
	Development (IECD)		Research	
LC Promoting Mobile	Bank al-Maghreb/Central	Project closed	© Business	02/06/2014
Financial Services in the	Bank of Jordan (Bank al-			. ,
Mediterranean partner	Maghreb/Central Bank of		Development	
countries	Jordan)			
LC BlueGreen Networking	Mediterranean Information	Monitoring		02/06/2014
Civil Society in the	Office for Environment,	and Support	T Environment	, ,
Mediterranean through	Culture and Sustainable		and Water	
environment and water	Development (MIO-ECSDE)			
issues				
LC Establishment of a	United Nations Industrial	Monitoring	O Business	02/06/2014
Regional Platform for the	Development Organization	and Support		,,
Development of Culture	(UNIDO)	and support	Development	
and Creative Industries and	(-/)			



Clusters in the Southern				
Mediterranean Countries				
LC UPFI Imbaba Urban	Governorate of Giza	Technical and	Main Transport	02/06/2014
Upgrading Project		Financial Fine-		02,00,2011
opgrading roject			and Urban	
		tuning	Development	
LC Tafila Wind Farm	Jordan Wind Project	Monitoring	Energy and	07/04/2014
117MW	Company PSC (JWPC)	and Support	Climate Action	
LC MedReSCP: Post Rio +20	European Bank for	Monitoring	-	07/04/2014
- Supporting the adoption	Reconstruction and	and Support	TEnvironment	0770472014
		and Support	and Water	
of sustainable	Development (EBRD/BERD)			
consumption and				
production patterns, in				
particular resource				
efficiency, in the				
Mediterranean region				
LC Citizenship and equality	Ideaborn	Monitoring	Social and	07/04/2014
education for school		and Support	Civil Affairs	
prevention of violence:			civil / trails	
Forming Responsible				
Citizens				
LB Mediterranean	Office International de	Project		07/04/2014
Knowledge Platform on	l'Eau/Institut	Launch	T Environment	0770172021
Water (Med Water	Méditerrannean de l'Eau	Launen	and Water	
,				
Knowledge)	(OIEau/IME)	Dusiant		02/10/2012
LC Integrated Programme	Government of Tunisia,	Project	T Environment	03/10/2013
for the Protection of the	Ministry of Environment and	Launch	and Water	
Lake Bizerte against	Sustainable Development			
Pollution				
LC Med4Jobs - Generation	Injaz Alarab	Technical and	😳 Business	03/10/2013
Entrepreneur		Financial Fine-	Development	
		tuning		
LC Euro-Mediterranean	Chamber of Commerce of	Project closed	😨 Business	04/12/2012
Development Centre for	Milan (Promos)		Development	
MSMESs			Development	
LC Higher Education on	International Centre for	Monitoring	A Higher	04/12/2012
Food Security & Rural	Advanced Mediterranean	and Support	_	, ,
Development	Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)	and Support	Education and	
	-		Research	
LB Jordan National Railway	Government of Jordan,	Technical and	▶ Transport	04/12/2012
Project	Ministry of Transport	Financial Fine-	and Urban	
		tuning	Development	
LC Skills for Success:	AMIDEAST	Monitoring	<u>^</u>	28/06/2012
Employability Skills for	-	and Support		-,, -•
Women			Civil Affairs	
women				



LC Université euro-	Government of Morocco,	Monitoring	Aigher 🕋	28/06/2012
méditerranéenne de Fès /	Ministry of Higher Education,	and Support	Education and	
Euro-Mediterranean	Scientific Research and		Research	
University of Fes	Professional Training			
	(MESRCFC)			
LB Completion of the	Technical Secretariat of	Technical and	Main Transport	10/02/2012
Central Section of the	GTMO 5+5 (CETMO)	Financial Fine-	and Urban	
trans-Maghreb Motorway		tuning	Development	
Axis			201010	
LC Developing Women	Fondation des Femmes de	Monitoring	Social and	16/12/2011
Empowerment	l'EuroMéditerranée (FFEM)	and Support	Civil Affairs	
LC LOGISMED Training	European Investment Bank	Monitoring	Transport	18/11/2011
Activities	(EIB/BEI)	and Support	and Urban	
			Development	
LC EMUNI Master	Euro-Mediterranean	Monitoring	Higher	17/11/2011
programmes	University (EMUNI)	and Support	Education and	
			Research	
LB Three areas of EMUNI	Euro-Mediterranean	Project closed	Higher	17/11/2011
PhD Research Programmes	University (EMUNI)		Education and	
			Research	
LC Young Women as Job	Association of Organisations	Final Project	Social and	25/09/2011
Creators - Phase 1	of Mediterranean	Evaluation	Civil Affairs	
	Businesswomen (AFAEMME)		civity thans	
LB Master Study	Euro-Mediterranean	Project closed	Aigher	15/09/2011
Programme in Risk Science	Institute of Risk Science		Education and	
	(IEMSR)		Research	
LC Overcoming	Global Water Partnership -	Monitoring	P Environment	09/07/2011
Governance Challenges for	Mediterranean/Organisation	and Support	and Water	
the Mobilization of	for Economic Co-operation			
Financing in the Water	and Development (GWP-			
Sector (Governance &	Med/OECD)			
Financing for the				
Mediterranean Water				
Sector)				
LB Desalinization Facility	Government of Palestine	Technical and	P Environment	22/06/2011
for the Gaza Strip Project		Financial Fine-	and Water	
		tuning		



ANNEX 2: GLOSSARY

AARU	Association of Arab Universities
ADEME	the French Agency on Environment and Energy Efficiency
Ad-hoc SOM	Ad-hoc Senior Official Meeting (usually dedicated to a thematic area)
AECHE	Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education
AfD	Agence Française de Développement
ALF	Anna Lindh Foundation
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
AP-UfM	Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM
ARLEM	Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly
ASCAME	Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry
BLUEMED	Research and Innovation Initiative for Blue Jobs and Growth in the
	Mediterranean Area
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal
	Republic of Germany
CIHEAM	International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
CMI	Centre for Mediterranean Integration
CoE	Council of Europe Conference of the Parties
COP	
CPRM	Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions – Inter-Mediterranean Commission
CTCN	
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
EIB	European Investment Bank
EMUNI	Euro-Mediterranean University
ERASMUS	European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students
ETF	European Training Foundation
EU	European Union
EU-Med GSO	Euro-Mediterranean Group of Senior Officials on Research and Innovation European University Association
EUA	Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies
EuroMeSCo	Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
G7/DP	Deauville Partnership/Transition Fund
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Fund
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GID	Groupe Interacadémique pour le Développement
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Development
	Agency)
GUNi	Global University Network for Innovation



GWP-Med	Global Water Partnership-Med
H2020	H2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean Sea (EU Programme)
HLWG	UfM High Level Working Group on Employment and Labour
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IEA	International Energy Agency
IFI	International Financial Institution
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IME	Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPEMED	Institut de Prospective Économique du Monde Méditerranéen /
	Mediterranean World Economic Foresight Institute
IPSAS	International Public Sector Accounting Standards
ITF	International Transport Forum
JRC	EU Joint Research Center
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
Med4Jobs	Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs / UfM Initiative for Youth Employment
MEDREG	Mediterranean Energy Regulators
MEDENER	Mediterranean Association of National Agencies of Energy
Med-TSO	Mediterranean Transmission System Operators
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MIO-ECSDE	Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable
	Development
	Development
MoS	Motorways of the Sea
MoS MoU	
	Motorways of the Sea
MoU	Motorways of the Sea Memorandum of Understanding
MoU MPA	Motorways of the Sea Memorandum of Understanding Marine Protected Areas
MoU MPA MSME	Motorways of the Sea Memorandum of Understanding Marine Protected Areas Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
MoU MPA MSME MYCN	Motorways of the Sea Memorandum of Understanding Marine Protected Areas Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Mediterranean Youth Climate Network
MoU MPA MSME MYCN NDCs	Motorways of the Sea Memorandum of Understanding Marine Protected Areas Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Mediterranean Youth Climate Network Nationally Determined Contributions
MoU MPA MSME MYCN NDCs NEET	Motorways of the Sea Memorandum of Understanding Marine Protected Areas Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Mediterranean Youth Climate Network Nationally Determined Contributions Not in Education, Employment or Training
MoU MPA MSME MYCN NDCs NEET NGO	Motorways of the Sea Memorandum of Understanding Marine Protected Areas Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Mediterranean Youth Climate Network Nationally Determined Contributions Not in Education, Employment or Training Non-Governmental Organisation
MoU MPA MSME MYCN NDCs NEET NGO NWIS	Motorways of the Sea Memorandum of Understanding Marine Protected Areas Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Mediterranean Youth Climate Network Nationally Determined Contributions Not in Education, Employment or Training Non-Governmental Organisation National Water Information System
MoU MPA MSME MYCN NDCs NEET NGO NWIS OCEMO	Motorways of the Sea Memorandum of Understanding Marine Protected Areas Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Mediterranean Youth Climate Network Nationally Determined Contributions Not in Education, Employment or Training Non-Governmental Organisation National Water Information System Office of Economic Cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Middle East
MoU MPA MSME MYCN NDCs NEET NGO NWIS OCEMO OECD	Motorways of the Sea Memorandum of Understanding Marine Protected Areas Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Mediterranean Youth Climate Network Nationally Determined Contributions Not in Education, Employment or Training Non-Governmental Organisation National Water Information System Office of Economic Cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Middle East Organisation for Economic Development
MoU MPA MSME MYCN NDCs NEET NGO NWIS OCEMO OECD OME	Motorways of the Sea Memorandum of Understanding Marine Protected Areas Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Mediterranean Youth Climate Network Nationally Determined Contributions Not in Education, Employment or Training Non-Governmental Organisation National Water Information System Office of Economic Cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Middle East Organisation for Economic Development Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie
MoU MPA MSME MYCN NDCs NEET NGO NWIS OCEMO OECD OME OSCE	Motorways of the Sea Memorandum of Understanding Marine Protected Areas Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Mediterranean Youth Climate Network Nationally Determined Contributions Not in Education, Employment or Training Non-Governmental Organisation National Water Information System Office of Economic Cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Middle East Organisation for Economic Development Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
MoU MPA MSME MYCN NDCs NET NGO NWIS OCEMO OECD OME OSCE PA-UfM	Motorways of the Sea Memorandum of Understanding Marine Protected Areas Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Mediterranean Youth Climate Network Nationally Determined Contributions Not in Education, Employment or Training Non-Governmental Organisation National Water Information System Office of Economic Cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Middle East Organisation for Economic Development Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean
MoU MPA MSME MYCN NDCs NEET NGO NWIS OCEMO OECD OME OSCE PA-UfM PPP	Motorways of the Sea Memorandum of Understanding Marine Protected Areas Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Mediterranean Youth Climate Network Nationally Determined Contributions Not in Education, Employment or Training Non-Governmental Organisation National Water Information System Office of Economic Cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Middle East Organisation for Economic Development Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean Private Public Partnership
MoU MPA MSME MYCN NDCs NEET NGO NWIS OCEMO OECD OME OSCE PA-UfM PPP PRIMA	Motorways of the SeaMemorandum of UnderstandingMarine Protected AreasMicro, Small and Medium-sized EnterpriseMediterranean Youth Climate NetworkNationally Determined ContributionsNot in Education, Employment or TrainingNon-Governmental OrganisationNational Water Information SystemOffice of Economic Cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Middle EastOrganisation for Economic DevelopmentObservatoire Méditerranéen de l'EnergieOrganization for Security and Co-operation in EuropeParliamentary Assembly of the Union for the MediterraneanPrivate Public PartnershipPartnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area
MoU MPA MSME MYCN NDCs NEET NGO NWIS OCEMO OECD OME OSCE PA-UfM PPP PRIMA PRPI	Motorways of the Sea Memorandum of Understanding Marine Protected Areas Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Mediterranean Youth Climate Network Nationally Determined Contributions Not in Education, Employment or Training Non-Governmental Organisation National Water Information System Office of Economic Cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Middle East Organisation for Economic Development Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean Private Public Partnership Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area Pollution Reduction and Prevention Investment
MoU MPA MSME MYCN NDCs NET NGO NWIS OCEMO OECD OME OSCE PA-UfM PPP PRIMA PRPI PVE	Motorways of the SeaMemorandum of UnderstandingMarine Protected AreasMicro, Small and Medium-sized EnterpriseMediterranean Youth Climate NetworkNationally Determined ContributionsNot in Education, Employment or TrainingNon-Governmental OrganisationNational Water Information SystemOffice of Economic Cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Middle EastOrganisation for Economic DevelopmentObservatoire Méditerranéen de l'EnergieOrganization for Security and Co-operation in EuropeParliamentary Assembly of the Union for the MediterraneanPrivate Public PartnershipPartnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean AreaPollution Reduction and Prevention InvestmentPreventing Violent Extremism
MoU MPA MSME MYCN NDCs NEET NGO NWIS OCEMO OECD OME OSCE PA-UfM PPP PRIMA PRPI PVE RECREE	Motorways of the SeaMemorandum of UnderstandingMarine Protected AreasMicro, Small and Medium-sized EnterpriseMediterranean Youth Climate NetworkNationally Determined ContributionsNot in Education, Employment or TrainingNon-Governmental OrganisationNational Water Information SystemOffice of Economic Cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Middle EastOrganisation for Economic DevelopmentObservatoire Méditerranéen de l'EnergieOrganization for Security and Co-operation in EuropeParliamentary Assembly of the Union for the MediterraneanPrivate Public PartnershipPartnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean AreaPollution Reduction and Prevention InvestmentPreventing Violent ExtremismRegional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency



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

SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System (EU Programme)
SEO	Search Engine Optimization
Sida	Swedish International Development Agency
SIWI	Stockholm International Water Institute
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
SOM	Senior Officials' Meeting
SPREF	SEMed Private Renewable Energy Framework
SSE	Social and Solidarity Economy
SWIM	Sustainable Water Integrated Management (EU Programme)
ТА	Technical Assistance
UEMF	Euro-Med University of Fes
UfMCCEG	UfM Climate Change Expert Group
UfMS	UfM Secretariat
UNAOC	United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
UNCDD	United Nations Convention on Desertification
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-MAP	UNEP - Mediterranean Action Plan
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHLP Water	United Nation High Level Panel on water
UNICA	Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNIMED	Mediterranean Universities Union
UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
UNWTO	The UN World Tourism Organization
UPFI	Urban Projects Finance Initiative
VET	Vocational Education and Training
VKC	Virtual Knowledge Center
WEG	UfM Water Expert Group
WHO	World Health Organisation