Regional context

Almost 40% of the regional population is currently under the age of 30, and the number of under-15s is expected to increase by over 18% by 2020. 2.8 million young people enter the job market each year in the MENA region. With an average of about 30% youth unemployment, the Middle East and North Africa region has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the world.

Youth employability is a key issue, both for Southern Mediterranean countries and for the EU. Thus, there are solid grounds for regional cooperation, and actions taken by the Union for the Mediterranean in this area consist in boosting efforts to achieve a higher impact on youth employability, higher education and vocational training, through developing exemplary projects and replicating best practices.

UfM launched the Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4Jobs) in 2013 to create jobs and tackle the adverse effects high unemployment has on society. Med4Jobs aims to build a sustainable employment environment in the region by promoting projects in line with employment, employability and decent work and, in cooperation with the relevant actors, to enhance, visibility, ownership and access to finance.

Milestones

- 13 projects benefitting over 100,000 young people and supporting the development of over 800 SMEs
- 50+ projects labelled
- UfM Regional Forum
- UfM Roadmap
- UfM-EU Neighbourhood policy
- UN Observer Status
- 1995
- 2008
- 2010-2012
- 2013-2018

YouMatch - ToolBox Project

• new people will be of working age

Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4Jobs)

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They called on the UfM Secretariat to continue its active contribution to improving the employment situation in the region by 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.

Published in October 2018
Cover image: Generation Entrepreneur

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Mission

To enhance regional cooperation and dialogue through the implementation of concrete projects and initiatives addressing human development, stability and integration.
The Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs

The initiative benefits from the expertise of the Med4Jobs Advisory Board, whose members include the ILO, UNIDO, OECD, ETF, ISU and UNCTAD. Regular meetings bring the Advisory Board together with other influential organisations and institutions working in employability, job creation and with SMEs in the region.

The Board’s objective is to:

- Select good practices that address gaps in the region’s labour markets for the Med4Jobs Generation Entrepreneur.

Sustaining an environment of entrepreneurship by providing business skills training to youth from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

Maharat Med

Developing youth employability and entrepreneurial skills to transform job seekers into job creators in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Palestine.

MedNC-New Chance Mediterranean Network

Promoting exchange of best practices among centres working for the socio-professional integration of young people in Algeria, Egypt, France, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia.

HOMERe - High Opportunity for Mediterranean Executive Recruitment

Using internship mobility to combat the skills mismatch in Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia.

Mediterranean Entrepreneurship Network Monitoring and support for new-business starters in Morocco and Tunisia.

Young Women as Job Creators

Promoting entrepreneurship among young women about to graduate from university in Albania, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Spain and Tunisia.

MedJobs is a cross-sectorial flagship initiative of the Union for the Mediterranean driven by the need for an integrated regional approach to job creation.

The aim is to help increase the employability of youth and women, close the gap between labour demand and supply, and foster a culture of entrepreneurship and private sector development by promoting and replicating a number of visible private sector job creation projects in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region.

MedJobs contributes to bringing job creation to the centre of the socio-economic development debate, notably by shedding light on employment at a local and national level. As a project-based initiative and employment platform, the initiative covers both the supply and demand side of the labour market.
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Milestones
1995
Barcelona Process
Launch of the Union for the Mediterranean
1 Secretariat
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2008
2010-2012
2013-2018

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MEDENTREPRISE
Mediterranean Entrepreneurship Network
Mentoring and support for new-business starters in Morocco and Tunisia.

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Med4Jobs UfM-labelled projects

Generation Entrepreneur
Sustaining an environment of entrepreneurship by providing business skills training to youth from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

Skills for Success
Employability skills focusing on disadvantaged and unemployed women in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.

Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes
New regional centre of excellence for higher education, research and innovation across all UfM countries.

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For more information
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COMMUNITY BASED APPROACHES

EMPLOYMENT

DECENT WORK CONDITIONS

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

CEED GROW
Growing and scaling SMEs with a particular focus on women in Albania, Monaco and Tunisia.

YouMatch - Toolbox Project
Knowledge-share platform to improve sustainable employment services for young people in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Portugal and Tunisia.


Incorpora - Labour integration programme Facilitating access to employment for vulnerable people in Morocco and Tunisia.
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