



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

Annual Report

2017



The UfM Secretariat  
is co-funded by the  
EUROPEAN UNION

Follow the UfM Secretariat on:



/ufmsecretariat



@UfMSecretariat



/union-for-the-mediterranean



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

# Annual Report 2017



The UfM Secretariat  
is co-funded by the  
EUROPEAN UNION





"The Un  
the Mediterra  
a major regional p  
that reflects the c  
efforts and will  
country members,  
stakeholders

<b>INTRODUCTORY WORDS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>THE UfM IN 2017</b>	
UfM principles and objectives	6
The UfM action-driven methodology	8
2017: a new phase of strengthened regional commitment	10
<b>FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION: BUILDING A POSITIVE AGENDA FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Putting people first: the UfM contribution to human development and regional stability</b>	<b>14</b>
Empowering women and youth in the Mediterranean	15
Promoting job creation and inclusive growth	23
Expanding opportunities through higher education and research	31
<b>Enhancing connectivity and sustainable development: the UfM contribution to regional integration</b>	<b>38</b>
Working towards a safer and cleaner Mediterranean sea	39
Investing in sustainable transport and urban development	45
Engaging in energy transition and climate action	53
<b>SCALING UP IMPACT, BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE</b>	<b>60</b>
Strategic partnerships and engagement	61
Staffing and Organization	66
Reaching Out	69
<b>ANNEXES</b>	<b>72</b>





# INTRODUCTION

## FROM FATHALLAH SIJILMASSI

### Secretary General

March 2012 – February 2018

The edition of this 2017 annual report comes at a particularly engaging juncture for the Union for the Mediterranean, as it coincides with the 10th anniversary of the institution. It also comes, at the same time, at the end of my mandate as Secretary General, and is therefore a good occasion to take stock of the progress achieved since I first took office in 2012.

The UfM has made significant advances during these last years, although a lot is still to be achieved in order to further enhance regional cooperation and integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region. I believe more than ever that strengthening regional cooperation and integration remains a strategic priority for the region.

2017 has been notably a very fruitful year for the institution, as it has seen the increase and amplification of concrete results on the ground for many initiatives and projects launched in the last five years.

If we base our observations on the UfM action-driven methodology, “the 3Ps methodology” (P for Policies, P for Platforms and P for Projects), we can make the following assessment for the 2017 activity:

## 1/ Political forums and meetings

There is no doubt that the major achievement for the year 2017 remains the unanimous adoption of the new UfM Roadmap for Action during the II UfM Regional Forum, held in Barcelona in January 2017. Under the

active leadership of the UfM Co-Presidency, held by the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and with the strong involvement of our 43 Member States, this Roadmap for Action reaches three main objectives:

- It is the first political document adopted by the UfM Ministers of Foreign Affairs since 2008, giving a significant new impulse to the political dimension of the UfM;
- It provides a clear guideline for the mandate, priorities and methodology of work for the UfM;
- It consolidates the institutional profile of the institution.

This political dimension has been reinforced further with the successful organization, in addition to the Regional Forum, of three Ministerial conferences, on Water (Valetta, April 2017), on Sustainable Urban Development (Cairo, May 2017), as well as on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society (Cairo, November 2017). The UfM also attended the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly in September in New York, as observer.

## 2/ Regional dialogue platforms

On the basis of these new dynamics at political level, the UfM Secretariat has been actively engaged in structuring and developing different platforms for regional dialogue, which gathered a large number of stakeholders in the Euro-Mediterranean

region (international and regional organisations, international financial institutions, the private sector, civil society organisations, local authorities, youth platforms, etc...). This has enabled the institution to significantly expand its networks, amplify the positive momentum launched by the adoption of the new Roadmap, and build on it through concrete partnerships with key actors in the region.

The strategic partnerships signed with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) in January and with the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in October are the best illustrations of the enhanced capacity of the UfM Secretariat to build upon synergies in order to operationalize regional cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

### 3/ Projects with regional impact

2017 has also seen a number of UfM projects coming to fruition. Out of the 51 projects labelled by the institution, 32 are now already under implementation, among which the most prominent achievements are:

- The Euromed University of Fes (UEMF), a project launched under the leadership of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI, King of Morocco. With a significant support from the UfM Secretariat these last years on both the financial scheme of the project and its academic dimension, the UEMF is now operational. 2017 has seen the award of a 70 Million Euro loan by the EIB to the University which, blended with grants of 18 million from the European Commission in addition to the funds provided by the Moroccan Government, made it reach its full funding.

Along with the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) in Slovenia, and the different university agreements already existing in the region, UEMF is a key actor for the promotion of youth mobility, knowledge sharing, mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue in the Mediterranean.

- The Desalination Facility for the Gaza Strip, a landmark project promoted by the Palestinian Government, which will help address a major water deficit for an ever increasing population of currently 2 million people in the Gaza strip. The project has witnessed important developments in the last years and more particularly in 2017, on three major fronts:
  - Securing political support by all parties concerned;

- Finalizing the technical studies;
- Ensuring financial and governance sustainability.

The work conducted under the auspices of the UfM Secretariat, and with the strong, active and effective involvement of all major stakeholders in the process, enables to foresee, with reasonable optimism, the organization of a Donor Conference for the project early 2018. Such a conference would kick off this strategic UfM project, illustrating the capacity of the institution to broker concrete and effective solutions in complex circumstances.

### 2018-2020: a three-year strategy to scale up impact

These encouraging results achieved by the UfM in 2017 do not make us underestimate the magnitude of the challenges the Euro-Mediterranean area is still facing. The scope and scale of these regional challenges are unfortunately increasing, and continue to be a daily threat to the region's security, stability and development.

However, the achievements of the UfM in the last years highlight the existence of untapped opportunities to build a positive agenda in the region. An agenda that should be strengthened and further showcased to become the pillar for proactive mobilization in favor of youth empowerment, human development and sustainable development in the region. In this sense, the UfM has established a multi-year strategy for 2018-2020 to build upon these encouraging results and to scale up impact, notably relying on the very skilled, highly professional, strongly motivated team of its Secretariat.

I have been very proud to work with them, and was honored to serve as Secretary General of the UfM during the last six years. I take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the Co-Presidency and all our Member States, as well as to thank you all for your support. The wellbeing of the Mediterranean region depends on the general mobilisation of all of us, together. I hope that you will enjoy reading this annual report and that it will encourage you to further engage with the UfM Secretariat.

I would like to convey my best wishes to my successor, and remain confident that the Union for the Mediterranean will rise to new heights!

# The UfM in 2017



## UfM principles and objectives

Launched in July 2008, the Union for the Mediterranean brings together all 28 countries of the European Union and 15 countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean with the aim of enhancing regional cooperation and dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region, in order to collectively address three interrelated priorities: regional stability, regional human development, and regional integration.

As a direct continuation of the Barcelona Process and in line with the goals set out at the Barcelona Declaration of 1995, the creation of the UfM reaffirmed the political will to strengthen cooperation in the region. A first phase between 2008-2011, under the Co-Presidency of France and Egypt, was dedicated to launching the UfM and setting up the UfM Secretariat in Barcelona.

A second phase since 2012, under the Co-Presidency of the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, has witnessed a steady increase in the number of activities and partnerships, growing expertise at the Secretariat and a number of achievements that have given new momentum to Euro-Mediterranean regional cooperation.

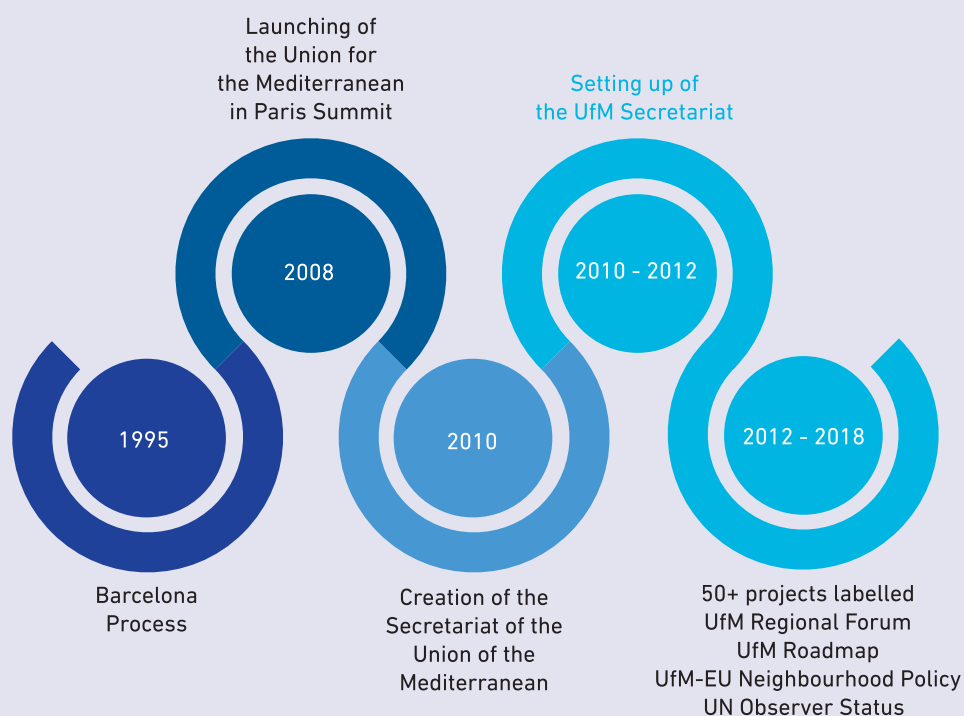
## Co-ownership and shared responsibility

The governance of the UfM is based on the principles of co-ownership of decisions and shared responsibility between the two shores of the Mediterranean. Aiming at the establishment of common and shared Euro-Mediterranean agendas in key strategic areas, the UfM structured a unique institutional governance that promotes horizontal, inclusive and dynamic interactions across the region.

## The UfM Co-Presidency

The UfM is chaired by a Co-Presidency ensuring that North and South are placed on an equal footing. It is currently assumed by the European Union on the Northern side, promoting a close link with the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), and by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the Southern side, allowing its full appropriation by the Southern countries. The Co-Presidency applies to all levels: summits, ministerial meetings and senior officials' meetings (SOM).





## Senior Officials' Meetings (SOM)

The UfM Member States meet on a regular basis at the level of Senior Officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the 43 countries. The SOM oversee and coordinate the work of the UfM, engage in political dialogue on the region's key issues, decide on Ministerial meetings to be held in the framework

of the UfM, approve the work programme and the budget of the Secretariat, and discuss the activities and project proposals submitted by the Secretariat for approval and endorsement. UfM Senior Officials make decisions by consensus.



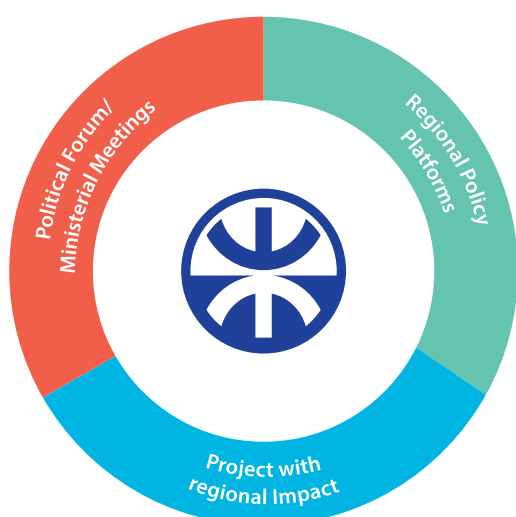
“If we are together in this Union for the Mediterranean, it is because we share not only a geographical space, but common opportunities and challenges. (...) It is more and more evident in our region that the way to solve conflicts, manage crisis, prevent tensions, is through more regional integration and more regional cooperation.”

**Federica Mogherini**, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission.

## The UfM action-driven methodology

The UfM has consolidated an action-driven methodology aiming to create effective links between the policy dimension and its operational translation into concrete projects and initiatives with tangible impact on our citizens, in particular young people. This methodology is composed of three components: political forums, dialogue platforms and regional projects – otherwise known as the “Three Ps”:

### The 3 Ps: Policies in action



“I cannot stress enough the fact that we are interconnected, our security is interconnected, our prosperities are interconnected and the challenges we face are enormous. (...) The Mediterranean is not a body of water that separates us, it is a bridge that has historically brought us together and it will continue to bring us together to serve our common interest of peace, justice, prosperity and stability for all.”

**Ayman Safadi**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Jordan.

Based in Barcelona, the UfM Secretariat is the platform to operationalise decisions made by Member States at political level through regional and sub-regional dialogue forums, following through on Ministerial commitments and promoting initiatives to foster regional cooperation. In turn, project outcomes keep the policies relevant through a multi-stakeholder and inclusive approach based on the principle of variable geometry, which helps to seize opportunities by exchanging best practices, sharing experiences and identifying innovative approaches in alignment with regionally agreed priorities and in close cooperation with all relevant players.



## 43 Member States

Albania  
Algeria  
Austria  
Belgium  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Egypt  
Estonia

Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy  
Jordan  
Latvia  
Lebanon  
Lithuania

Luxembourg  
Malta  
Mauritania  
Monaco  
Montenegro  
Morocco  
Netherlands  
Palestine  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Slovakia

Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Syria  
(self-suspended in 2011)  
Tunisia  
Turkey  
United Kingdom

\*Libya has an observer status in the UfM

Under the leadership of the UfM Co-Presidency and with the active involvement of its Member States, these last years have marked a turning point for the institution, both at a political and operational level. Through its innovative methodology, the UfM has given new momentum to the regional cooperation framework and yielded concrete positive results:

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

## 15 Ministerial meetings

have taken place over the last 5 years on key strategic areas. These have been complemented with regular Senior Official Meetings held since 2010.

**2. Regional dialogue platforms:** A structured policy dialogue dimension involving not only representatives and experts from governmental institutions, but also regional and international organisations, local authorities, civil society organisations, universities and think tanks, as well as the private sector and financial institutions (multi-stakeholder approach).

## 12 Regional dialogue platforms

The UfM Secretariat has established 12 regional dialogue platforms and working groups in its six strategic working areas. More than 300 forums and expert meetings were organised in the last years, involving over 25,000 stakeholders from around the Mediterranean.



### MOST RECENT MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES

- Strengthening the role of Women in Society (Egypt, November 2017)
- Sustainable Urban Development (Egypt, May 2017)
- Water (Malta, April 2017)
- II UfM Regional Forum – Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Spain, January 2017)
- Energy (Italy, December 2016)
- Employment and Labour (Jordan, September 2016)
- Regional Cooperation and Planning (Jordan, June 2016)
- I UfM Regional Forum – Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Spain, November 2015)
- Blue Economy (Belgium, November 2015)
- Digital Economy (Belgium, September 2014)
- Environment and Climate Change (Greece, May 2014)
- Industrial Cooperation (Belgium, February 2014)
- Energy (Belgium, December 2013)
- Transport (Belgium, November 2013)
- Strengthening the Role of Women in Society (France, September 2013)



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

The UfM Secretariat acts as a catalyst of projects, accompanying promoters throughout the project lifecycle. It provides continuous support towards ensuring the implementation of the projects through technical expertise, networking opportunities and visibility, and takes stock of particularly innovative ideas in view of up-scaling them to a more regional level.

Altogether, the UfM adds up 51 labelled projects worth more than 5 billion euros, among which 32 are already launched.

FOR  
REGIONAL  
HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT

28

LABELLED  
PROJECTS

In particular on youth unemployment, women empowerment, mobility and higher education.

FOR  
REGIONAL  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

23

LABELLED  
PROJECTS

Including on climate action, urban development, water and environment.

Implementation is accelerating and has already produced positive results on the ground, with a clear potential to develop further over the years to come.

## 2017: a new phase of strengthened regional commitment with the adoption of the Roadmap for Action

With an increased number of ministerial meetings, regional dialogue platforms and labelled projects, the UfM has entered a new phase, building on the progress achieved so far. Its increasing and expanding activities demonstrate that windows of opportunity exist to further develop regional cooperation.

In this light, the institution organized the II UfM Regional Forum in January 2017, under the Co-Presidency of Federica Mogherini, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Ayman Al Safadi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Jordan, and Alfonso María Dastis Quecedo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, as the host country. The Forum brought together UfM Ministers of Foreign Affairs and their representatives with regional key players to review its activities and achievements.

An important milestone was reached on this occasion with the adoption by the UfM Ministers of Foreign Affairs of a **new Roadmap for Action**, entitled "The Union for the Mediterranean: an action-driven organisation with a common ambition". This strong political impulse reaffirmed the commitment of the 43 Member States to work together for a deepened and effective Euro-Mediterranean regional cooperation agenda through the UfM.





II UfM Regional Forum – January 2017, Barcelona

The UfM in 2017



“Spain has always given priority to the Mediterranean, which we want to turn into an area of peace and prosperity. For this, it is vital to encourage greater cooperation, such as the one fostered by the Union for the Mediterranean.”

**Alfonso María Dastis Quecedo,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
Cooperation of Spain.



## Connecting the Mediterranean to the global agenda

The Euro-Mediterranean region is at the forefront of many pressing global challenges such as migration, terrorism, climate change, water scarcity or youth unemployment. In this context, the UfM aims to promote common regional responses in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, acting as a regional chapter of the global agenda. This report will highlight the UfM specific actions that contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Mediterranean.

The new Roadmap underlined the key role played by the organisation as a unique framework for political dialogue and regional cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean area, and set it to work towards addressing the root causes of the growing challenges that are confronting the region through a collective, inclusive and coherent approach, with four main objectives:

1. Enhancing political dialogue amongst the Member States on key issues of the region;
2. Ensuring the contribution of UfM activities to regional stability and human development;
3. Strengthening regional integration;
4. Consolidating the capacity of the UfM through impact-focused actions.

## Looking ahead – 2018 and beyond

2018 will witness the appointment of Nasser Kamel, from Egypt, as new UfM Secretary General, he brings more than three decades of experience in Euro-Mediterranean relations to the role:

**“I look forward to working with the Co-Presidency and the 43 Member States to continue enhancing regional dialogue and cooperation in the Mediterranean. At a time when our Mare Nostrum is facing some major challenges, I intend, with the support of the Member States, to elaborate tangible initiatives and to implement relevant projects that could help solve, or at least mitigate, the negative implications of some of the problems facing our region.”**





**Euro-Med University of Fes** - EIB grants a €70 million loan to the UfM-labelled project UEMF, blended with an EU grant of €13 million

**APRIL**



**EMUNI Annual Conference 2017** is held on the thematic of "Youth, Employability and Entrepreneurship: the Role of Higher Education Institutions"

#### UfM Ministerial Conference on Water - UfM

Ministers agree on a new framework for enhanced regional cooperation on Water in the Mediterranean

The UfM co-organises with Konrad Adenauer Foundation the regional youth seminar '**Bridging Youth Across the Mediterranean**'

**MAY**



The UfM participates at the **72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**SEPTEMBER**



The UfM held the High-Level Roundtable '**Towards implementing the New Urban Agenda in the Mediterranean Region**' in New York

The UfM co-organises the **Annual Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance of the UNFCCC** in Rabat

**1st UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum** takes place in Cairo

**OCTOBER**



The UfM holds the **1st UfM Regional Stakeholders Conference on Blue Economy** in Naples

**MedaWeek 2017** - ASCAME and UfM join forces for the 11th edition of the MedaWeek to advance economic development in the Mediterranean



The UfM co-organises, alongside UNIDO and ASCAME, the **Women's Entrepreneurship & Investment Programme (WEIP)** in the framework of the MedaWeek 2017

**4th Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society** takes place in Cairo



Launch of the **UfM Climate Finance Study** at the COP23 to the UNFCCC

**4**

#### SENIOR OFFICIAL MEETINGS

7 March | Malta

3 July | Barcelona

16 October | Madrid

11 December | Barcelona

**4**

#### LABELLED PROJECTS:



**Incorpora**  
16 October

**Siemed, Support for Entrepreneurship Initiatives in the Mediterranean**  
16 October

**TranslogMed**  
16 October

**MedCoast4BlueGrowth**  
11 December

**4**

#### LAUNCHED PROJECTS:



**Generation Entrepreneur**  
23 January

**Imbaba Urban Upgrading**  
21 May

**Incorpora**  
18 October

**The Eastern Mediterranean International School (EMIS)**  
26 October



**FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION: BUILDING A POSITIVE  
AGENDA FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

# **PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST: THE UfM CONTRIBUTION TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL STABILITY**





Human development lies at the very heart of most challenges faced in the Euro-Mediterranean region today. Indeed, UfM countries have among the highest unemployment rates in the world, affecting mostly youth and women, which

The UfM Roadmap for Action highlights that there is no development without security and no security without development. It sets forth the need to strengthen the development-security nexus in order to create the appropriate environment conducive to socio-economic development in the region.

adds to many other pressing issues such as social cohesion, migration or efforts to counter radicalisation. Investing in people is thus a major driver for stability and security in the region.

As the scope and scale of these challenges have reached unprecedented levels, the impact of UfM activities on regional stability through their connection with the development dimension remains key. In this sense, the UfM Secretariat has continued in 2017 to amplify initiatives targeting young people and women's involvement in socio-economic life, education and mobility, Vocational Education and Training (VET), and research and innovation, through a global and balanced approach addressing the root causes of the challenges faced in the region.

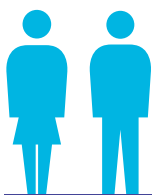


## Empowering women and youth in the Mediterranean

Women and youth are key agents for change in their societies, as their roles and potential are everywhere demonstrated. Their empowerment is a significant marker of development: young men and women can be a catalyst for positive change and a source of creativity and innovation if enabling environments are provided to facilitate their full engagement.

The Euro-Mediterranean region, like many others, is far from having closed the gap on women and youth participation, which deprives the region of a huge potential for inclusive growth.

60%



of the  
EURO-MEDITERRANEAN  
POPULATION is currently  
under 30 years of age

[SOURCE: ETF]

Investing in young people and women and strengthening their role in the region is thus fundamental, and remains at the heart of the UfM strategy for stability and development.

IF THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN  
THE LABOUR MARKET equalled that of  
men, the MENA regional GDP could rise by



**+ 47%**

over the next decade

That means the region could  
realize an economic impact  
of around €490 billion annually

[SOURCE: MCKINSEY GLOBAL INSTITUTE]

## Strengthening the role of women in society

Significant progress has been made over the past years in the Euro-Mediterranean region with regards to closing gaps between men and women. In many countries, there are more women attending universities than men, and there are also positive trends in women's participation in the economic, political, civil, social and cultural spheres of life.

However, gender equality remains a key issue in the region. The educational gains achieved by women are yet to translate into concrete results in terms of greater empowerment and equal perspectives. To this end, the UfM is promoting a shared action-oriented agenda on women empowerment for the region.

## POLICY FRAMEWORK

**4th UfM Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society** Cairo 27 November 2017

**3rd UfM Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society** Paris 11-12 September 2013

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Build and consolidate a regional common agenda to empower youth and women as main drivers for the region's development and stability.
- Enhance economic, social and civic participation of women and youth, as a key human development asset to build more inclusive and sustainable societies.

## CONTRIBUTION TO 2030 AGENDA:



## While in the EU countries

Women make up more than half of the university population

**53,5%**

They only represented

**29%**

members of parliament in 2016\*

**These figures are even lower in the Southern Mediterranean countries**

**17%**

Where they account for of parliamentarians\*\*



\*[SOURCE: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT] \*\*[SOURCE: UN WOMAN]

## A UfM Ministerial Mandate on Women Empowerment

Gathering in Cairo on 27 November 2017, for the fourth time in the framework of the UfM, the 43 Ministers of UfM Member States agreed on a common agenda to strengthen the role of women in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The Conference saw the presentation of a Progress Report on the advancement of gender equality in the region, prepared through the UfM regional dialogue process on women's empowerment. Whilst the report shows that clear progress has been made in the region, particularly in relation to access to education and the public sphere, there is still a long way to go to bridge the gap between legislative and policy efforts and implementation.

These deliberations led to a declaration with concrete and operational recommendations and policy commitments focused on four priority areas: raising women's participation in public life and decision-making; improving women's economic participation; combating all forms of violence against women and girls; and eliminating gender stereotypes. The UfM Secretariat was mandated to develop a regional follow-up mechanism on agreed indicators to monitor progress on women's rights and promote specific region-wide projects and initiatives.



4th UfM Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society - Cairo, Egypt



“We are very delighted to host the 4th UfM Ministerial Conference given that regional frameworks and the UfM play an important role in strengthening the role of women in societies. We are very keen to ensure progress towards the achievement of SDGs, and in particular Goal 5 on ‘Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls’, by sharing and offering innovative solutions that would break the glass ceiling for women in the region.”

**Dr. Maya Morsy,**  
President of Egypt's National Council for Women.

## Women Entrepreneurship and Investment Programme

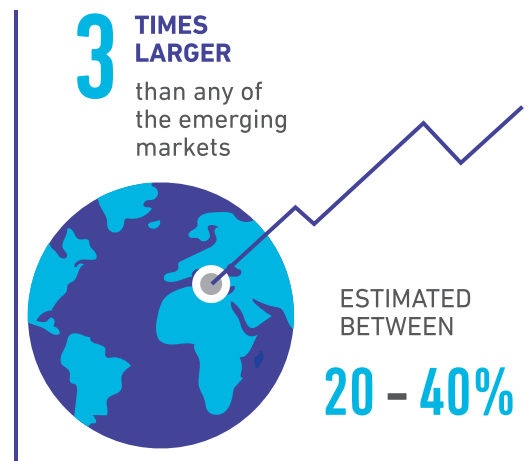
The UfM jointly organized the Women Entrepreneurship and Investment Programme (WEIP) with UNIDO and ASCAME in the framework of the 11th edition of the Mediterranean Week of Economic Leaders (MedaWeek), on 22-24 November 2017 in Barcelona. Through dedicated workshops, B2B meetings and study tours, more than 70 women entrepreneurs from both shores of the Mediterranean exchanged experiences and best practices, strengthening cooperation, fostering international partnerships and creating new business and investment opportunities in the Euro-Mediterranean region. As part of the package, women entrepreneurs had the opportunity to visit prominent local companies of Barcelona, with the objective to give hands-on feel for businesswomen coming from North Africa and the Middle East.



“I believe we must continue to acknowledge the important role women have played in the changes taking place across our region, particularly by encouraging women's fuller participation in the political, economic, cultural and social development of the Euro-Mediterranean. I am confident that the 2017 Ministerial Conference will further contribute to a positive change in attitude and behaviour, towards women and girls in our region.”

**H.E. Ms Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca,**  
President of the Republic of Malta.

### THE GENDER WAGE GAP IN THE MENA REGION IS



[SOURCE: WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM]

### Projects with regional impact: Zoom on 2017 achievements

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

The project, promoted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), aims to improve the economic environment for women entrepreneurship development, and to mobilize interest, finance, technology and partnership for the creation and expansion of businesses run by women in seven Southern Mediterranean countries, namely Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

Based on a survey conducted in the framework of the project on 1210 women entrepreneurs in the region, national policy reform priorities were identified for each country to boost women

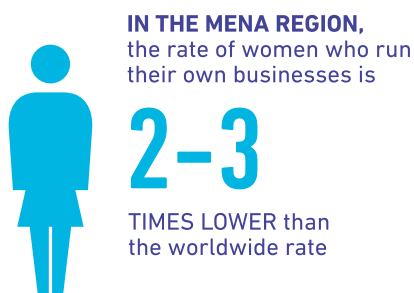
entrepreneurship: access of SMES to public procurement purchases for Egypt, promoting women entrepreneurship in creative industries for Jordan, access to finance, in particular through women dedicated investment funds, for Morocco, leadership for Tunisia and Lebanon, and women representation in decision-making for Palestine.

In terms of entrepreneurship development and coaching capacities, UNIDO's investment promotion methodology has been adopted by the national women business associations and applied to identify and formulate more than 100 women-led projects. In addition, 100 members and partners of the six associations have acquired literacy in conducting financial appraisal of investment projects, allowing to support the capacities of hundreds of women entrepreneurs in each targeted country.

**Promoter:** United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

**Partners:** Egypt: Association for Women's Total Advancement and Development • Jordan: Business & Professional Women Amman • Lebanon: Lebanese League for Women in Business • Morocco: Association des Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises du Maroc • Palestine: Businesswomen Forum • Tunisia: Femme et Leadership

**Supported by:** Government of Italy • UNIDO



[SOURCE: GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP MONITOR 2016/2017]



"By working to promote women empowerment, the UfM plays a fundamental role that resonates deeply with its purpose: to come together from all parts of the Mediterranean without exception, to unleash energy and to work together to make progress on concrete projects."

**Nathalie Loiseau,**  
Minister for European Affairs of France.

AS PART OF ITS AGENDA,  
**THE UfM IS PROMOTING OVER**



**25** Regional  
PROJECTS  
with a specific gender  
mainstreaming policy

## Women of the Mediterranean: Next Generation of Leaders (WoMED)

WoMED is a UfM-labelled project promoted and co-funded by Sciences Po, that aims to strengthen the personal and professional skills of young women from the Southern Mediterranean countries through an intensive training programme on gender equality issues.

The project saw its third and last cohort meeting in 2017, involving 22 young women from 13 different countries in a series of workshops and meetings with high-level experts, researchers and leading figures who will share their experiences. The training programme adopted a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to gender issues through economics, law, philosophy, political sciences, sociology, history, psychology, etc.

Further to the success of this project over the last few years, the UfM is preparing, together with Sciences Po, a seminar that will bring its three generations together in 2018, in view of developing a Euro-Mediterranean network for the promotion of gender equality.

**Promoter:** Sciences Po

**Supported by:** French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Women's Rights





“This project encouraged me to skip the risk and to face the challenges related to the creation of my business.”

**Noora Abdeen-Khalifeh,**  
Founder and director of the Noora Heritage House, and beneficiary of the UfM-labelled project “Promoting women empowerment for inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the MENA region”.

## Enhancing the Role of Women and Youth in Preventing Violent Extremism

Preventing violent extremism (PVE) is a topic high on the policy agenda of many governments in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Until recently, the challenges presented by violent extremism have been evaluated primarily through security lenses. However, evidence and experience show that success against violent extremism will require responses that address political, social, and economic drivers with a human rights based approach.

In July 2017, the UfM Secretariat, UNDP and UN Women jointly organized in Barcelona a two-day expert meeting on the role of youth

and women in PVE in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The event confirmed that young people and women can and do play a significant role in building secure lives and communities through addressing the root causes of violent extremism and working towards its eradication. However, in order to do so, they need to be supported and enabled through effective PVE strategies that are well-coordinated among practitioners, local authorities, regional and multilateral organizations, and civil society actors.

As a follow-up to the experts meeting, actionable recommendations will be presented to the governments in the Euro-Mediterranean region, and a regional action plan will be drafted and discussed with key partners in the region, with the aim of supporting and empowering women and youth to prevent violent extremism in the Mediterranean region.

The UfM has published in 2017 a series of high-level columns echoing the call for the promotion of a strong shared regional agenda, towards the enhancement of the untapped potential of the Mediterranean, and above all the role of women as major driving forces for change and development in our societies.

To find out more:



Experts meeting on “Enhancing the role of women and youth in preventing violent extremism” - July 2017, Barcelona



“Through our partnership with the UfM, we are working to promote women’s economic empowerment and higher participation of women in politics, as well as to combat violence and the stereotyping of women in media. These are some of the root causes for women’s marginalization.”

**Mohammad Naciri,**  
Regional Director of UN Women Arab States

#### Projects with regional impact: Zoom on 2017 achievements

### Forming Responsible Citizens

“Forming Responsible Citizens”, project led by the Spanish-based organisation Ideaborn, continued to successfully implement its activities in Morocco and Tunisia. Indeed, since April 2017, 5 citizenship clubs were created in Tunisian secondary schools with more than 250 direct beneficiaries - both teachers and students, and 3 schools started to implement citizenship clubs in Morocco, with over 140 participants. In the second semester 2017, the project was extended to Jordan and Lebanon thanks to the continued support of the governments of Norway and Monaco.

This UfM-labelled project analyses existing textbooks from the perspective of civic education and equality between men and women in the participating countries’ secondary-middle schools, in full partnership with national education authorities. It also includes the production of a new, redesigned version of the

current national curricula, followed by training of teachers in citizenship education and networking on a national and regional level.

The project’s long term goal is to influence policies and legislation in an effort to promote principles of inclusive and sustainable development, women’s empowerment and gender equality, and to prevent violence against women and girls from school through equality of education for full citizenship.

**Promoter:** Ideaborn

**Partners:** Moroccan Center for Civic Education (MCCE) • Tunisian Social Development and Empowerment Center (SDEC) • Jordanian Centre for Civic Education • Adyan Foundation • Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO

**Supported by:** Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Principality of Monaco



UfM-labelled project Forming Responsible Citizens - Teacher training workshop, Tunisia



## Giving a voice to engaged youth in the Mediterranean: talking with, and not about, youth

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. In this light, the UfM has placed youth at the heart of its action, working with them not only as mere beneficiaries of its projects, but also as full actors and partners in the region. In 2017, the UfM Secretariat has given a strong impulse to youth participation and inclusion by organising key meetings with young Mediterranean leaders to exchange views on their role, on ways to enhance their participation and engagement, as well as on concrete proposals to develop the UfM Strategy for Youth.

### II UfM Regional Forum: a “Positive Agenda for Youth in the Mediterranean”

The II UfM Regional Forum, held in Barcelona in January 2017 under the theme “Mediterranean in Action: Youth for Stability and Development”, focused on building a shared agenda on youth in the Euro-Mediterranean area, across the different sectors of regional priority. Through the adoption of the new UfM Roadmap for Action at this occasion, UfM Ministers of Foreign Affairs agreed to launch a “Positive Agenda for Youth in the Mediterranean” facilitating higher education, VET, employability, health, youth empowerment and mobility, and mainstreaming gender equality, thus promoting social inclusiveness.

Many young beneficiaries of UfM-labelled projects attended the Forum, joining over 500 Mediterranean key stakeholders, including Ministers, official delegations, civil society and private sector representatives, international financial institutions and socio-economic project promoters, highlighting thereby the action-driven nature of the organisation.



“Over the past few years the focus of the Union for the Mediterranean has been economic growth, job creation, women’s empowerment – real issues impacting the lives of so many people around the Mediterranean. This year’s Forum focuses on our Mediterranean Youth: this is not just another policy issue among others, this is the issue. This is the one on which we cannot afford to fail.”

**Johannes Hahn,**  
EU Commissioner for European  
Neighbourhood Policy &  
Enlargement Negotiations.

### Bridging Youth Across the Mediterranean

Jointly hosted by the UfM Secretariat and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation on 7-9 May 2017 in Barcelona, the seminar “Bridging Youth Across the Mediterranean” was the opportunity for young Mediterranean people to exchange, debate and share ideas among each other and with experts of the region.

Bringing together 45 young women and men representing youth organisations from 23 countries throughout the North and South of the Mediterranean, the international seminar addressed issues of youth participation and youth policies in the region, with a focus on providing adequate education and employability skills and giving young representatives the incentives for successful participation in the development of their communities, countries, and the region as a whole. The seminar explored the potential for future cooperation among the represented organisations, in view of setting up a youth Euro-Mediterranean network.



"With this statement, we want to present our common vision and our strong commitment towards joint action in contributing to peace, preventing violence and building human and sustainable development in the Mediterranean. (...) We are eager to learn from each other. We want our voices to be heard and our opinion to be taken into consideration."

**Joint Statement Bridging Youth Across the Mediterranean**

To read more:



"Policies to support youth must not only target young men and women as beneficiaries but be an important benchmark of the seriousness of our ambitions for socio-economic development and the resilience of our region's people in the years to come. We need to be innovative in this and reach out to young men and women to really listen to their concerns and make them the central point of our policies."

**Michael A. Köhler,**

Director for EU-Neighbourhood Policy at the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation, European Commission

## #1Youth1Sea: a call for a positive agenda in the Mediterranean

On 30 October 2017, the UfM Secretariat organised a brainstorming meeting with a group of young Mediterranean leaders that published a column entitled #1Youth1Sea back in 2014. The meeting allowed for an exchange of views and experiences on the role youth play in the Mediterranean, as well as on concrete proposals for the UfM to support their engagement and action in the region.

Following up on this successful meeting, the group of young people has published a new op-ed, calling for the implementation of a positive agenda in the Mediterranean: "We have so much to do together on both sides of the Mediterranean - 4 axis to bring together our youth".

"The under 30s represent 60% of the population of the Mediterranean. It is up to us to find concrete answers to the common challenges of our region and to allow our generation, which is more and more connected to the world, to have access to better life and career prospects in the long term. (...) It is this common wish that we shared with the Union for the Mediterranean during our recent exchanges. Since 2008, the UfM works for the economic and social empowerment of the most fragile populations and reinforces regional cooperation around the challenges of the region."

To find out more:



## STORIES FROM THIS YEAR: DIA-MED

The UfM Secretariat has partnered up with the Lycée Français de Barcelone to implement an UfM simulation program for youth, called DIA-MED Barcelona (les Dialogues pour la Méditerranée de Barcelone). This event takes the form of a UfM model negotiation programme, benefiting young students aged from 15 to 19 who are interested in learning more about the mandate of the UfM, its charter and functioning, as well as acquiring debating and public-speaking skills, critical thinking and leadership abilities.

A first group of 60 students of over 12 nationalities met in 2017 at the UfM Headquarters in Barcelona. This initiative offered the young participants a good opportunity to interact with the UfM as a regional institution, while engaging in topics of concern in the Mediterranean region. Based on this pilot phase, Dia-Med will grow to benefit a wider range of Mediterranean institutions in the next years.





# Promoting job creation and inclusive growth

Job creation continued to be a top concern at global level in the last years, and more particularly in the Euro-Mediterranean area where it is considered a pressing regional priority. Indeed, the UfM countries have one of the highest unemployment rates, 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 Euro-Mediterranean area, being understood as indispensable and critical for economic growth, social cohesion and poverty eradication.

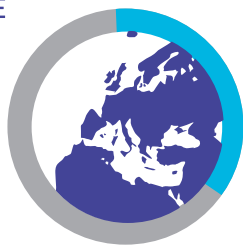
WITH AN AVERAGE  
OF ABOUT

30%

YOUTH  
UNEMPLOYMENT

the region has one of the  
highest **YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT**  
rates in the world

[SOURCE: EUROSTAT]



“It is important to launch new integrated cooperation initiatives that target consistent and qualified investments and that will enable these countries to offer their citizens a realistic alternative of prosperity and sustainable development. If these countries can offer jobs, their young people will not risk their lives crossing the sea or join terrorist groups. Jobs, development and growth are fundamental keys to solve the tensions that the Mediterranean region faces today, and the most effective antidote to threats of radicalization and terrorism.”

**Laura Boldrini,**  
President of the Italian Parliament.

## POLICY FRAMEWORK

**UfM Ministerial Conference on Employment and Labour** Jordan 27 September 2016

**UfM Ministerial Conference on Digital Economy** Brussels 30 September 2014

**UfM Ministerial Conference on Industrial Cooperation** Brussels 19 February 2014

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Foster job creation and support the development of SMEs through the UfM Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4Jobs).
- Support creative industries and Social and Solidarity Economy in the region.
- Develop a strategy for private sector development, advancing industrial cooperation, trade and investments in the region.

## CONTRIBUTION TO SDGS



In this context, the UfM Secretariat is engaged in the implementation of specific projects and initiatives focused on the development of employment opportunities on one hand, and the support of the private sector in the region on the other hand. There is a particular emphasis on youth and women, thus addressing cross-cutting issues such as the promotion of women's socio-economic empowerment and the enhancement of youth employability, as well as a particular attention to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), vectors for innovation and economic growth in the Mediterranean region.

In the **MENA region**,  
youth unemployment  
is more than

**3 TIMES HIGHER**  
than adult unemployment  
in 2017



in the next  
five years over

**52 MILLION** new people  
will be of  
working age **+27 MILLION**  
will seek  
jobs



[SOURCE: ILO]

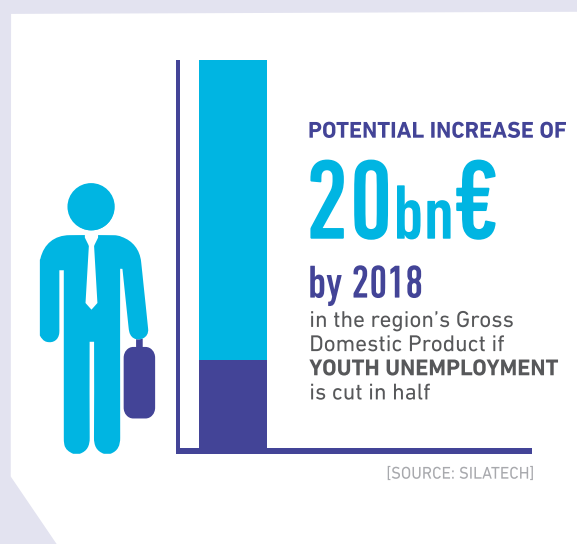
## Enhancing employability and stimulating employment

### The Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4Jobs)

Whereas growth in the Mediterranean has not enabled the creation of sufficient jobs in recent years, the Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4Jobs) contributes to bringing job creation to the centre of socio-economic development debate. The flagship initiative Med4Jobs, developed by UfM since 2013, helps to increase the employability of youth and women, closing the gap between labour demand and supply, and fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and private sector development. It is conceived as a cross-sectorial, project-based initiative, driven by the need for an integrated regional initiative in the area of job creation, aiming at the promotion and replication of a number of visible private sector job creation projects in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region.

Med4Jobs has today 13 labelled projects, and covers both the supply and demand side of the labour market by targeting three core issues:

- **Employability.** By identifying and scaling-up across the region successful training experiences that address the mismatch between skills and labour market needs.
- **Job intermediation.** By replicating successful job facilitation and intermediation experiences.
- **Business enabling infrastructure.** By developing business enabling infrastructure for SMEs, such as incubators and coaching programmes.



UfM-labelled project MedNC - el Llindar School





UfM-labelled project Generation Entrepreneur

### GENERATION ENTREPRENEUR, PROVIDING BUSINESS SKILLS TRAINING TO YOUTH

Generation Entrepreneur aims to develop and sustain an environment of entrepreneurship throughout North Africa and the Middle East by providing business skills trainings to youth. Developed by INJAZ Al-Arab, the project seeks to support an entrepreneurial eco-system at multiple levels, from grassroot business education in primary and secondary schools to hands-on training on business creation. Generation Entrepreneur also covers private sector mentorship and seed funding for real enterprises.

In 2017, the project received financial support from various private sector companies and banks in the beneficiary countries and was officially launched on the 24 of January 2017, on the margins of the II UfM Regional Forum.

Approximately 79,000 school and university students will benefit from the training programmes promoted by the project, with 500 job opportunities created upon successful completion of mentorship, incubation and graduation of the start-up programmes.

**Promoter:** INJAZ Al-Arab

**Countries:** Algeria • Egypt • Jordan • Lebanon • Morocco • Palestine • Tunisia

### YOUMATCH TOOLBOX, GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR INNOVATIVE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR YOUTH

YouMatch Toolbox, developed under the Med4Jobs job intermediation pillar, serves policy makers, private sector representatives and civil society to initiate an ongoing dialogue on innovative solutions to address the challenge of bringing youth into sustainable employment.

In 2017, the UfM Secretariat has continued to support the project by elaborating a glossary on Employment Services/Employment Promotion, aiming at facilitating regional expert discussions. The glossary will consist of 100 key terms of employment services and will be available in English, French and Arabic in early 2018.

**Promoter:** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

**Countries:** Algeria • Egypt • Jordan • Morocco • Palestine • Tunisia

UfM Ministers of Foreign Affairs agreed through the new UfM Roadmap for Action that “through its activities, the UfM joins regional and international efforts to address socio-economic root causes of terrorism and extremism, and it should be developing further projects and initiatives of high impact with a special focus on youth employability and women empowerment”.

## INCORPORA, A LABOUR INTEGRATION PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE AT RISK

Incorpora is a job placement programme that facilitates labour integration for people at risk or marginalized from society with ordinary companies in the Southern Mediterranean region, by taking stock of previous successful experiences of the programme model. Incorpora aims at offering companies an alternative form of corporate social responsibility in occupational insertion, enhancing the professionalization and training within social organizations participating in the programme, and promoting socially responsible regions that help provide solutions to the needs of clients at risk or marginalized from society.

Labelled by the SOM on 16 October 2017 in Madrid, the project was officially launched in Tunisia on 18 October with the participation of Juan López-Dóriga Pérez, Spanish Ambassador to Tunisia, and Marc Simón, Assistant Director-General of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation's Social Programmes, as well as Tunisian officials and partners of the project.

**Promoter:** "La Caixa" Banking Foundation • Caisse des Dépôts et des Consignations (CDC)

**Partner:** International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

**Countries:** Morocco • Tunisia



"Thanks to the Mediterranean New Chance programme, I have succeeded in improving my skills in languages, communication, IT, entrepreneurship and more generally my own personal development. This programme has allowed me to enrich my CV, in both content and form, to improve my interpersonal competences and my self-confidence, as well as to gain some technical skills to search for a better job."

**Islem Ben Ali**, Tunisian beneficiary of the UfM-labelled project MedNC.

## MEDITERRANÉE NOUVELLE CHANCE (MedNC), PROMOTING YOUTH SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

The objective of the MedNC UfM-labelled project is to boost employment opportunities of young people who are not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET's).

The project mobilises and reinforces cooperation amongst stakeholders from the public and private sectors, as well as from the civil society, working in the field of Vocational Education and Training in the region. The project is currently being implemented in 7 Mediterranean countries, through capacity-building activities and the exchange of innovative education experiences and best practices among partners.

In 2017, the UfM Secretariat organised the 7th and the 8th MedNC steering committees in its Headquarters in Barcelona, to discuss the main lines of action for launching a new phase of the project in 2018-2020. The meetings brought together representatives of the regional partner centres involved in the project, members of organisations promoting similar pedagogical models, donors and other relevant stakeholders.

**Promoter:** Office of Economic Cooperation for the Mediterranean and the Middle East (OCEMO)

**Countries:** Algeria • Egypt • France • Morocco • Portugal • Spain • Tunisia

**From 2006 to 2016, INCORPORA SPAIN**  
has managed to place more than



**137.000**

**VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

in various training programs or has helped these individuals found employment.

In **MOROCCO**, there have been



**4.000**

**PLACEMENTS SINCE 2009**



## UfM High Level Working Group on Employment and Labour

In view of operationalizing the 3rd UfM Ministerial on Employment and Labour, held in September 2016, the UfM Secretariat has organized, in cooperation with DG Employment, the 6th meeting of the UfM High Level Working Group on Employment and Labour (HLWG) on 28-29 March 2017 in Barcelona. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the Employment Roadmap (2017-2019) and to put the Ministerial policy recommendations into action. This meeting saw the participation of social partners, whose representatives are also highly involved in the process. In this sense, the 3rd UfM Social Dialogue Forum was held on 10-11 October 2017 in Brussels, with the main objective of building on the social partners' "Declaration on Social Dialogue", paving the way to the next UfM Ministerial on Employment and Labor scheduled for 2019.

The UfM Secretariat co-organized, in collaboration with TAIEX and DG Employment, the TAIEX Multicounty Workshop on Social Economy on 14-15 November 2017 in Brussels. The workshop brought together 50 participants from UfM Member states and international organizations to discuss the employment potential of Social Economy, the access to finance and to markets, the role of public authorities and other stakeholders, the new trends and tendencies, as well as best practices and success stories in this economic field.

## Scaling-up industrial, trade and investment cooperation

### Towards the reinforcement of the private sector in the Mediterranean

Aiming at reinforcing the role of the private sector in the region's socio-economic growth and sustainable development, the UfM Secretariat has developed a Private Sector strategy since 2014 to consolidate partnerships with key business associations and organizations in the region. In this context, the UfM co-organized several meetings throughout 2017 to boost private sector participation in all its key strategic priority areas, notably in the field of Energy and Climate Action.

### Preparation of the Ministerial Meetings on Industrial Cooperation and on Trade

In 2017, the UfM Secretariat worked closely with the Co-Presidency, notably with European Commission Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) in preparation of the next UfM Ministerial Meeting on Industrial Cooperation, planned for 2018. This meeting will set key priorities in support of SMEs, job creation, and private sector development, as well as other key issues towards the enhancement of Euro-Mediterranean economic growth and fight against unemployment.



"The main problem is to create a sustainable production culture among enterprises, especially in SMEs, so it is very important to learn from the experiences of the UfM-labelled projects."

**Hürol Mete,**

Head of Department at the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology of Turkey.



**ANNUAL PARTICIPANTS  
at the MedaWeek:**

**1500**



**“Networking with a purpose”: the  
Medaweek 2017**

On the 26-27 October 2017, the UfM Secretariat organized, jointly with the Co-Presidency, the first UfM Experts Technical Meeting on Industrial Cooperation in Barcelona to hold consultations and explore elements of a proposed joint work program on industrial cooperation, under the UfM framework, with all relevant partners.

The new UfM Roadmap for Action mentioned that “a structured regional policy dialogue involving the private sector on a Trade and Investment Cooperation Agenda will be further developed, paving the way for a UfM Trade Ministerial”.

Plans for a UfM Ministerial on Trade were also underway in 2017 to give a new impulse to economic integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region eight year after the last Ministerial meeting held on this issue. To this end, the UfM Secretariat, in close coordination with the Co-Presidency, has contributed to the organization of the Euromed Trade Senior Officials Working Group and the UfM ad hoc Trade Senior Officials meeting, on 12-13 December 2017. The Ministerial meeting is foreseen to address several trade-related priority areas and agree on actions that will facilitate and promote trade and investment across the region.

In 2017, the UfM has signed a partnership agreement with the Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME) to consolidate the UfM's position as strategic institutional partner of the Mediterranean Week of Economic Leaders of Barcelona (MedaWeek).

ASCAME and the UfM have a solid history of strategic cooperation to make progress towards integration, stability and regional socioeconomic development. They have undertaken important initiatives and projects over the last few years to contribute to the region's economic development and integration, the promotion of public-private initiatives to facilitate the flow of investments, and the increase of the Euro-Mediterranean region's appeal in attracting investment in general.

Proof of this close partnership is the 11th edition of the MedaWeek which, ten years after its launch, addressed main current regional challenges, while exploring new economic trends and solutions related to these regional shifts. The UfM actively participated in the preparation of this year's edition and was widely represented in the MedaWeek 2017 North Africa Business Development Forum, Eco MedaGreen Summit and the Women Entrepreneurship & Investment Programme.

**IN THE SOUTHERN  
MEDITERRANEAN,  
APPROXIMATELY**



**47%**  
**MEN**



**35%**  
**WOMEN**

are in informal  
employment

[SOURCE: ILO]



“The Mediterranean basin constitutes one of the regions with the largest growth potential in the world. Young entrepreneurs must believe in the future and assume certain risks, by analysing their project’s viability in cooperation with local partners. The Euro-Mediterranean region has a very high growth potential for the development of corporate projects by both big companies and SMEs. Young entrepreneurs have thus excellent development opportunities ahead, as a lot remains to be done.”

**Pau Relat,**  
President of the Internationalization Commission of the Chamber of Commerce of Barcelona.

### STORIES FROM THIS YEAR: SME MED NETWORK WORKSHOP

The UfM Secretariat has jointly organised the SME MED Network workshop with PIMEC (Micro, petita i mitjana empresa de Catalunya) on 3 November 2017 at the UfM Headquarters in Barcelona. This event explored means of supporting private sector development in the Mediterranean, notably SMEs, and discussed the potential for social economy as a source of employment creation and income generation in the region.

While aiming at promoting inclusive growth and enhancing regional competitiveness, the workshop participants and representatives of Mediterranean business support organizations and partners examined ways of cooperation and coordination between them to address existing challenges of the sector through the elaboration of a common work plan with specific areas of future intervention.

### Projects with regional impact: Zoom on 2017 achievements

#### Creativity, Jobs and Local Economic Development in the Southern Mediterranean

The UfM Secretariat, in coordination with UNIDO and the Algerian government, has co-organized on 14-15 November 2017 in Algiers the regional conference “Creativity, Jobs and Local Economic Development in the Southern Mediterranean”. With the aim of promoting employment, employability and business development, as well as contributing to the growth of the industry through the creation of new MSMEs, Ministers of Industry and International cooperation from the Southern Mediterranean met with the private sector, entrepreneurs, international cooperation organisations, and civil society to share best practices learned through the UfM-labelled project Establishment of a Regional Platform for the Development of Culture and Creative Industries and Clusters in the Southern Mediterranean Countries (promoted by UNIDO).

Considering the key role of creativity and creative industries in local economic development, this UfM-labelled project aims to foster entrepreneurial cooperation and promote new employment opportunities and inclusive growth in the Southern Mediterranean. It delivers a regional platform for dialogue, exchange of experiences and dissemination of best practices within the cultural and creative business field in the region, with a particular focus on gender affairs.

## Supporting entrepreneurial initiatives through diaspora communities

The UfM Senior Officials labelled “SIEMed project: “Support for Entrepreneurship Initiatives in the Mediterranean” in October 2017. Promoted by the Agency for International Cooperation and Local Development in the Mediterranean (ACIM), over the next 36 months the project aims to strengthen a supporting environment that fosters the creation and sustainability of SMEs, very small businesses and microenterprises in the Mediterranean region through the mobilization of entrepreneurs and investors from the diaspora community. The project seeks to develop North-South and South-South partnerships through networking events, capacity-building initiatives and the sharing of best practices to raise entrepreneurial awareness among youth, women and diaspora communities in the region.



“My name is Krikor Asdarjian and I create and produce high-end silver jewels in the jewelers' city of Bourj Hammoud, one of Beirut's neighborhoods in Lebanon. Creativity is a need, to adapt my jewels to new markets. It is the reason why I participated in the Creative Mediterranean project, which aims to develop craftsmen creativity in the Southern Mediterranean.”

**Krikor Asdarjian**, Beneficiary of the UfM-labelled project “Establishment of a Regional Platform for the Development of Culture and Creative Industries and Clusters in the Southern Mediterranean Countries”.

The UfM Secretariat has actively taken part in 2017 in major international summits on these issues, notably the Astana Economic Forum 2017 on 15-16 June and BSEC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summit on 22 May in Istanbul



In 2017 SMEs  
REPRESENTED  
more than

**+95%** OF REGISTERED  
FIRMS WORLDWIDE

ACCOUNTED FOR **+50%** OF JOBS

**+35%** AND CONTRIBUTED TO  
OF GDP IN MANY  
EMERGING MARKETS

[SOURCE: WORLD BANK]

Field visit to UfM-labelled project Euro-Med University of Fes

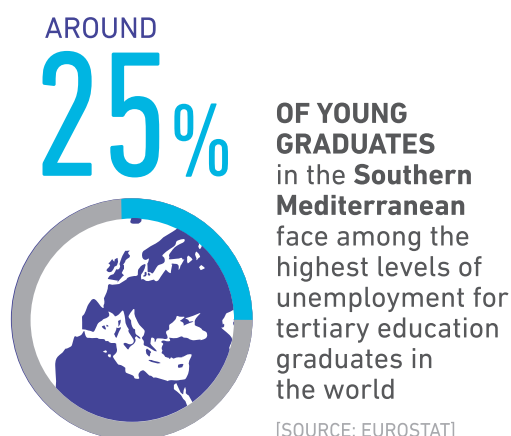






# Expanding opportunities through higher education and research

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%<sup>1</sup>. The “youth bulge” in the region is changing dramatically its educational outlook, yet efforts are still not matching the ambition of numerous young Mediterraneans, 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. To this end, the UfM Secretariat has continued in 2017 to deepen cooperation and integration in Research and Innovation (R&I) among UfM countries and to consolidate the role of the UfM as a regional platform, facilitator and driving force of cooperation between Higher Education Institutions, whose contribution to countering radicalization, promoting a Euro-Mediterranean identity for new generations of students and equipping them with the skills needed in the region is central and needs to be further supported.

## POLICY FRAMEWORK

**Ministerial Conference on Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through Research and Innovation** Valletta 4 May 2017

As an observer in the 5+5 Dialogue, the UfM action in these fields also refers to:

**5+5 Dialogue Ministerial Conference on Research, Innovation and Higher Education** Tunis 30-31 March 2017

**5+5 Dialogue Ministerial Conference on Vocational Education and Training** Marseille 28 October 2014

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Strengthening the UfM Secretariat contribution to regional dialogue forums in the development of regional dialogue processes on Higher Education Internationalisation & Academic Mobility and on Vocational Education & Training.
- Scaling-up learning opportunities in a Euro-Mediterranean environment.
- Fostering regional initiatives and projects in the areas of school-to-work transition and vocational training.
- Contributing to the implementation of the 2017 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation through Research and innovation, in particular on PRIMA, BLUEMED and migration issues.

## CONTRIBUTION TO SDGs



<sup>1</sup> Source: WorldBank



Interns of UfM-labelled project HOMERe, holding their diploma

## Boosting student mobility across the Mediterranean

### Higher Education Internationalisation and Academic Mobility

The UfM Secretariat has initiated an informal regional dialogue on 'Higher Education Internationalisation and Academic Mobility in the Euro-Mediterranean area'. The platform brings together representatives from UfM Member States, as well as key international and regional actors such as the European Commission and university networks. The objective is to amplify quality partnerships between educational institutions throughout the Mediterranean and enhance further North-South, South-North as well as South-South academic mobility, at a time when the needs for greater mutual understanding and opportunities for youth have never been so pressing in the region.

In May 2017, the UfM Secretariat organised the second regional meeting of this platform in Barcelona, which highlighted the role and expectations of local authorities on these issues and identified concrete mechanisms needed to better exchange information at regional level.

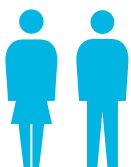
As a follow-up, an external qualitative study containing the main trends of mobility and university cooperation in the Mediterranean and with concrete recommendations for an UfM Strategy in this sector will be launched in 2018.

#### Projects with regional impact: Zoom on 2017 achievements

### Fostering international internships for Mediterranean students

On 13 July 2017 in Barcelona, the UfM Secretariat held a regional workshop on "Boosting employability in the Mediterranean region: which role for internships? Lessons learnt and future perspectives of HOMERe UfM labelled project", which gathered over 100 representatives from enterprises, higher education institutions, public authorities, private sector and civil society organisations from both shores of the Mediterranean to discuss opportunities and challenges related to the development of internships in the region and the specific role of the private sector in that regard.

In **Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries**, rates of **young people** not in



**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, OR TRAINING (NEETs) RANGE BETWEEN**

**15-32%**



**125**  
young  
people



By 2017 HOMERe **BENEFITTED**

INCLUDING **52%** WOMEN



[SOURCE: ETF]



“This programme really helps young people to change their attitude towards work to a more pro-active approach and helps companies to identify high-quality candidates. It was also a key accelerator of my early career development.”

**Youssef Berdoul,**  
Moroccan beneficiary of UfM-labelled project HOMERe.

While taking stock of HOMERe's first two years of operation with testimonies from beneficiaries, the workshop shaped perspectives for scaling up the project, including commitments from new companies ready to join the programme.

HOMERe is a UfM-labelled project, under the Med4Jobs Initiative, which promotes quality internship mobility between Mediterranean countries, and is predominantly aimed at high-profile students in their last year of study before graduation. The objective is to ease their transition from the academic environment to qualified entry-level roles in their own country.

HOMERe aims to attract transnational private companies that operate in the region by providing help in the identification, preparation and mentoring of appropriately qualified students, while the host companies commit to allocating a tutor to their interns and providing them with a gratification. But by far the most innovative aspect of the project is that participating companies



more than

**32%**

OF ENTERPRISES

in some **southern mediterranean** countries have identified the **skills level as a major constraint to hiring** in the region

[SOURCE: UNDP]

must consider employment opportunities in the intern's country of origin after the successful completion of the internship.

**Project Promoter:** RMEI – Réseau Méditerranéen des Ecoles d'Ingénieurs et de Management

**Partners:** Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME)

• Association des Ingénieurs Francophones en Egypte (AIFE) • BUSINESSMED • Réseau des Conseillers du Commerce Extérieur Français (CCEF) • UNIMED

## The Euro-Med University of Fes: significant steps forward

2017 has been a real turning point year for the Euro-Med University (UEMF), as the the UfM Secretariat has facilitated the closing of the financing needs of the University through its network of financial partners and specific technical support. With the signing of an EIB loan of 70M€ in January blended with an EU grant of 13M€ in the framework of the Neighborhood Investment Facility in July, the

Learning environment at the UfM-labelled project Euro-Med University of Fes





UEMF has reached, in complement to the other financial sources (29M€ from the Moroccan Government and 35M€ grant from the Groupe Jamai), the necessary funding to cover its investment costs. This achievement represents a substantial contribution for the advancement of the construction of the University eco-campus, foreseen to be completed by 2021, including the teaching and research premises, the sports area, the library as well as other facilities and equipment.

The UEMF is a UfM flagship project initiated by His Majesty the King Mohammed VI that stands as a unique regional campus contributing towards promoting dialogue, cultural exchange and cooperation in higher education and research between both rims of the Mediterranean. This innovative Euro-Mediterranean approach is reflected not only in the diversity of nationalities of its students, professors, researchers and non-academic staff, but also in the language and contents of the programmes, which focus on topics with important impact on the integrated development of the region.



“

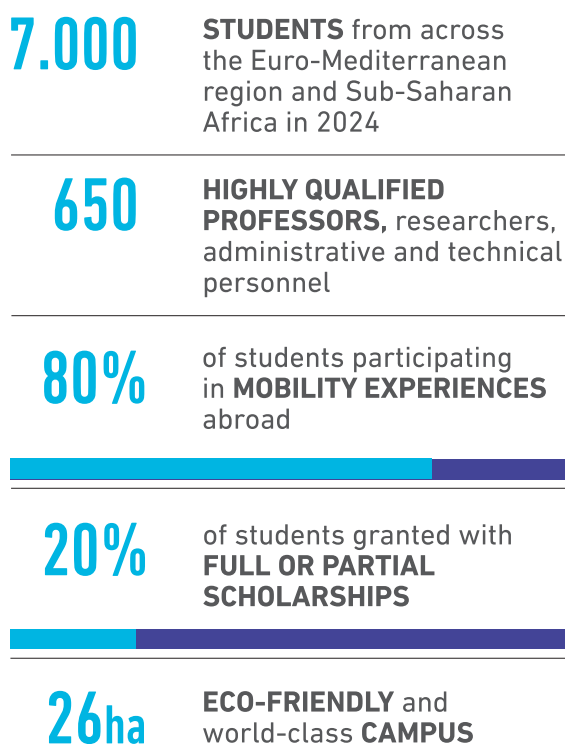
“I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the financial support of the EIB and of the European Commission to the UEMF and to praise the active role of the UfM Secretariat in this success. (...) The UfM has been instrumental in supporting the UEMF building its business model and in intermediating with the EC, the EIB and with donors.”

**Prof. Mostapha Bousmina,**  
President of the Euro-Med  
University of Fes.

Hashemite University of Jordan, partner university of UfM-labelled project EMUNI



## UEMF KEY FIGURES





## EMUNI Annual Conference: Youth employability starts in higher education institutions

EMUNI University held its Annual Conference on 5-6 April under the title "Youth, Employability and Entrepreneurship: The Role of Higher Education Institutions". The Conference, organised in partnership with the UfM Secretariat, built on the conclusions of the II UfM Regional Forum "Mediterranean in Action: Youth for Stability and Development" (January 2017).

The annual meeting provided the audience with the opportunity to share regional insights about youth employability, skills mismatch and entrepreneurship and business incubation. It represented an excellent tribune for young leaders including students to express their views and exchange with policy makers on the challenges they are facing.

Since its establishment in 2008, the Euro-Mediterranean University has evolved towards an academic network of more than 130 universities gathering expert knowledge and hands-on experience of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and thus contributes in a significant way to promoting Euro-Mediterranean higher education and research. The University to a large extent conducts its operation at its headquarters in Piran, in Slovenia.



"Young graduates unemployment is a major concern faced by many countries of both shores of the Mediterranean. However, the situation is not that bleak. The region is currently witnessing a vibrant entrepreneurial scene with hundreds of successful start-ups and many venture capitalists across the entire region. That is why enabling the right environment for youth to become active citizens and seize the full potential of educational opportunities in order to improve their employability is essential to respond to the common regional challenges."

**Prof. Hamid El-Zoheiry**, President of EMUNI University.

## STORIES FROM THIS YEAR: 2017 YOCOPAS CONFERENCE: 'CROSSING BORDERS'

The annual YOCOPAS Conference, Youth Organized Collaboration for Peace And Sustainability, was one of the highlights of the academic year at the Eastern Mediterranean International School (EMIS), a UfM-labelled project located in Hakfar Hayarok, a youth village and educational campus in Israel. The focus of this third edition was 'Crossing borders'. Over 500 high school students from various countries, teachers and principals met on EMIS campus with eye-opening workshops.

The YOCOPAS initiative, established in 2015 by students and educators from EMIS, brings together high-school students from the Mediterranean region and beyond, with the objective to create a platform for collaborative action and to build capacities among students for them to emerge as leaders and social entrepreneurs in their local communities.

The annual YOCOPAS conference is both youth-led and youth-targeted, and offers students aged between 16 and 18 years opportunities to engage in interactive workshops, discussions and social activities.

## Giving new impetus to regional cooperation on Research and Innovation

With the contribution of the UfM Secretariat, several advancements were made at policy level in research and innovation (R&I), which have laid solid foundations for concrete future achievements in this field. The Ministerial Conference on Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through Research and Innovation stands prominent among them. In particular, the UfM Secretariat was mobilised for the launch and implementation of two large initiatives in R&I in the region (PRIMA and extension of BLUEMED).

### Enhancing cooperation on R&I at regional...

The Ministerial Conference, which was held on May 4, 2017 in Valletta, Malta, gathered around 100 country delegates, experts and stakeholders to encourage a region-wide coordinated approach, to increase researchers and students' mobility, as well as to emphasize the key role that research and innovation play in addressing the current pressing challenges of the Mediterranean region.

In particular, the Ministers called for the identification of innovative solutions to create more opportunities for youth as well as for the development of an understanding of the root causes of migration and the inter-dependencies between different drivers for migration. They welcomed several emblematic regional initiatives, namely:

**The Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean area –“PRIMA”.** This new integrated initiative will contribute to pooling the know-how and financial resources of the European Union and participating Member States in order to foster ground-breaking solutions for sustainable water provision and management and food production in the Mediterranean region. 19 UfM countries are currently involved in it.

In 2017, on the basis of the strong potential synergies and clear complementarity between the objectives of the PRIMA initiative and the UfM action in the region, the UfM Secretariat



was actively engaged in the preparation of this initiative and took part in several meetings and events within its framework. The UfM Secretariat, as Observer of the PRIMA General Assembly, will further co-chair its scientific advisory committee and help towards the successful implementation of the PRIMA first calls for proposals, which will be launched early 2018.

**The “BLUEMED Initiative on research and innovation for blue jobs and growth in the Mediterranean”** offers a shared strategic framework for working towards a productive and resilient Mediterranean Sea that is better known and valued. It is designed to tap the full potential of the marine and maritime sectors by structuring transnational cooperation to create new ‘blue’ jobs and promote and improve social wellbeing, sustainable prosperity and the environmental status of the region and



CIHEAM Secretary General, Cosimo Lacirignola and UfM Secretary General, Fathallah Sijilmassi

In 2017, after a meeting between UfM Secretary General Fathallah Sijilmassi, and International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) Secretary General Cosimo Lacirignola, it was decided to enlarge cooperation between both institutions to new fields such as the deep roots of migration, climate change, blue economy and women empowerment.

its surroundings. The UfM Secretariat is supporting the extension of the BLUEMED initiative to non-EU UfM countries in order to set up common key challenges for marine research and innovation in the region.

The UfM Secretariat actively participated in a variety of regional dialogue initiatives for education and research, such as the “Euro-Mediterranean Group of Senior Officials in Research and Innovation (EU-Med GSO)” and the “Mediterranean Committee on Education for Sustainable Development”.

### ... and sub-regional level

The UfM significant contribution in the region was highlighted by 5+5 Dialogue countries at the third Ministerial Conference of the Western Mediterranean Countries on the Promotion of Research, Innovation and Higher Education for

Social Stability and Economic Growth, which took place on 30-31 March 2017 in Tunis.

Ministers recalled that issues of training, professional integration of young people and job creation must remain a priority for UfM projects, and highlighted the essential role of research, innovation and higher education in creating new jobs and preparing young generations with the skills required to face future challenges in the labour market.

Building on the conclusions of the previous 5+5 Ministerial Conferences held in Rabat (September 2013) and Madrid (March 2015), Ministers endorsed a new Work Programme for 2017-2018, where countries are encouraged to continue cooperation with the UfM Secretariat and build on possible synergies with relevant UfM initiatives and projects.



**FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION: BUILDING A POSITIVE  
AGENDA FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

# ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: The UfM contribution to regional integration



UfM-labelled project Tafila Wind Farm



These past years have demonstrated that the scope and scale of the challenges we face in the Euro-Mediterranean region, relating to security, irregular migration, unemployment or again climate change, are of regional dimension and call more than ever for collective responses. However, the level of regional integration in the Mediterranean remains one of the lowest in the world.

In light of these figures, the UfM focuses on the multiplying effects of infrastructure connectivity and the potential of sustainable development in the region as key drivers for regional integration. To this end, the UfM continued in 2017 to foster regional cooperation in the fields

of water, environment, blue economy, transport, urban development, energy and climate action through a cross-sectoral inclusive approach that reaffirms its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A study commissioned by the Union for the Mediterranean has indeed shown that, out of all the trade flows occurring in the UfM region, 90% are within the European Union, 9% between the North and the South and only 1% among Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries themselves.



## Working towards a safer and cleaner Mediterranean sea

The Mediterranean faces environmental threats to its biodiversity, natural resources and habitable areas, with many regions on the northern and southern shores being confronted with water scarcity and droughts, or victim to floods and fires.

With more than 180 million people considered water poor and an additional 60 million facing water stress<sup>1</sup>, 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 and environment sector remains one of the main priorities for the UfM. As such, and in order to palliate the emerging challenges related to marine litter, sanitation and water scarcity, the UfM is dedicated to develop a structured approach and encourage regional collaboration for the safeguarding of the Mediterranean Sea.

<sup>1</sup>SOURCE: GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP

### POLICY FRAMEWORK

**UfM Ministerial Meeting on Water** Valletta 27 April 2017

**UfM Ministerial Conference on Blue Economy** Brussels 17 November 2015

**UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change** Athens 13 May 2014

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Promote integrated water resources management and ensure access to water resources and affordable water services.
- Protect the Mediterranean sea and environment, contributing to de-pollution and pollution prevention efforts in the region

and developing sustainable consumption and production solutions.

- Promote green and blue economy.

### CONTRIBUTION TO 2030 AGENDA:



## Scaling up Regional Cooperation on Water in the Mediterranean

### The UfM Ministerial Meeting on Water

Gathering in Valletta, Malta, Ministers of Water from the 43 UfM Member States agreed to develop a UfM Water Agenda to further enhance regional cooperation on water and to implement sustainable and integrated water management policies throughout the region. Ministers recalled the unique features of the Mediterranean region, which make it particularly vulnerable to water scarcity and climate change effects.



"Water scarcity is a growing problem around the Mediterranean. To improve the situation cooperation between countries is essential. That is why I am so pleased to help the Union for the Mediterranean adopt this Declaration on water. It provides a vision for a regional work programme on integrated water resources management. I am confident that improved access to clean, sustainable and efficient use of water will be the result."

**Karmenu Vella,**  
EU Commissioner for Environment,  
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

The **MEDITERRANEAN** region holds only

**3%** of **GLOBAL WATER** resources but hosts over

**50%** of the **WORLD'S WATER POOR POPULATIONS**



[SOURCE: FAO]

### Projects with regional impact: Zoom on 2017 achievements

### The Desalination Facility for the Gaza Strip

The Desalination Facility for the Gaza strip is a landmark project that will help address a major water deficit for an ever increasing population of currently 2 million people. The large-scale desalination facility is part of a broader Palestinian Water Programme in Gaza which aims at addressing the water crisis in the Gaza Strip, where 95% of the water is unfit for the human consumption due to the over-pumping of the Coastal Aquifer, the only natural source of water available. The Desalination Facility will also contribute to the reduction of the pollution in the Mediterranean, by decreasing overpumping and contributing to the regeneration of the coastal aquifer. Lastly, the development of this project will enhance the political stability of the region by tackling the challenge of water scarcity on the one hand, and fostering job creation and future economic and sustainable development in this highly populated region on the other hand.

**Availability** of fresh water in the **GAZA STRIP** is amongst the lowest in the world.



**CURRENTLY**  
**2 MILLION**

Palestinians in Gaza rely almost exclusively on the coastal aquifer as a source of freshwater

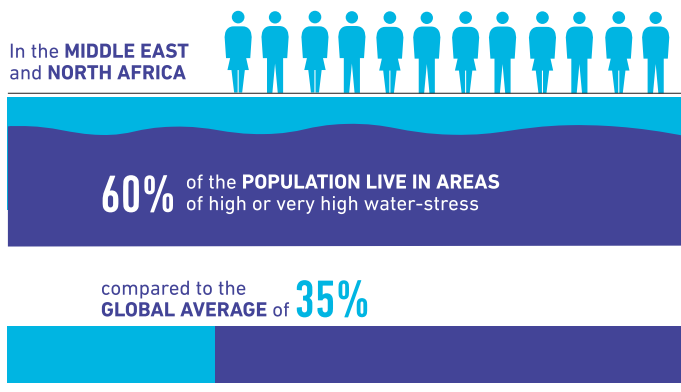
**ONLY**  
**3%**

of the water pumped from the aquifer complies with World Health Organization drinking water quality standards.

Since the labelling of the project by the UfM, there has been notable advances in its preparation, most significantly during the past year. In 2017, the efforts to advance this project have indeed taken a significant step forward on all levels: political, financial and technical. As a result, a milestone pledging conference for the Desalinisation facility is foreseen to be organised on 19-20 March 2018 in Brussels, convening donors from all over the world.

**Promoter:** Government of Palestine

**Partners:** European Commission (EC) • European Investment Bank (EIB) • Islamic Development Bank (IDB) • World Bank



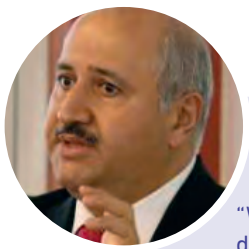
[SOURCE: WORLD BANK]



“Palestine is extremely proud to be part of a unique and distinguished institution such as the Union for the Mediterranean. Since its creation, the UfM has been completely devoted to addressing the challenges of the region and to fostering human and sustainable development on the basis of partnership and shared responsibility between both shores of the Mediterranean.

We highly appreciate the serious commitment of the UfM in Palestine, particularly its huge efforts to pave the way to hold the donor's meeting to support the 'desalination facility for the Gaza Strip'. This project that will supply drinking water to more than 1.8 million Palestinian citizens of the Gaza Strip reflects the importance that the UfM gives to humanitarian and developmental values.”

**Minister Reyad Malki,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Palestine



“Water should be considered as a priority sector to donors considering the expensive development of water unit costs. Technology and knowledge transfer, innovation and regional solutions should be promoted to leverage water efficiency and ultimately save the environment. We should promote regional cooperation for the development of regional water projects to utilize economies of scale. (...) The UfM Water Agenda [will contribute to] further enhance regional cooperation on water.”

**Minister Hazim El-Naser,**  
Minister of Water and Irrigation of Jordan.

## Boosting protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution



[SOURCE: UNEP]

### The Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean

The 'Horizon 2020 Initiative' was launched to join regional efforts in reducing pollution in the Mediterranean by 2020, by tackling the sources of pollution that are said to account for around 80% of the overall pollution of the Mediterranean Sea: municipal waste, urban waste water and industrial pollution.

Horizon 2020 was endorsed by the UfM Ministers at the Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change in Athens in 2014 and remains one of the key flagship initiative of the organisation.

The Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean was at the heart of the discussions during the 1st UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change, held in Barcelona on the 14-15 March 2017. This working group brought about several conclusions regarding the definition of specific focus points for this initiative and the crucial components to be built on over the coming months. These included the importance of reintroducing the 'Horizon 2020 Coordination Mechanism' to ensure stronger coordination, engagement, visibility and consolidation of results.

**€630** million is the estimated cost of marine debris **CLEAN-UPS** per year across the EU

[SOURCE: EUROPEAN COMMISSION]

Water pollution monitoring within the framework of the UfM-labelled project "Plastic Busters for a Mediterranean Free from Litter"



### STORIES FROM THIS YEAR:

#### Plastic Busters for a Mediterranean Free from Litter

The project "Plastic Busters MPAs" (PB MPAS) was awarded with €5 million by the EU Interreg Med Programme in January 2018. PB MPAs stems from "Plastic Busters", an initiative promoted by the University of Siena and labelled in 2016 by the UfM as a priority regional initiative to prevent, reduce and remove marine litter from the Mediterranean Sea.

The project will be implemented by the University of Siena, the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) and a wide consortium of national and regional organisations with the overall goal of maintaining biodiversity and preserving natural ecosystems in pelagic and coastal marine protected areas located in Albania, Croatia, Greece, Italy, France and Spain. Over a 4-year period, the project will address the entire management cycle of marine litter, from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation, and foresees the transfer and capitalisation of results to the Mediterranean basin at large.

**Promoter:** University of Siena.

**Partners:** GIZ • DG MARE • ENI Cross Border Cooperation Programme • Interreg Med Programme • the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation • UNEP-MAP



## Projects with regional impact: Zoom on 2017 achievements

## The Depollution of Lake Bizerte

The Integrated Programme for the protection of Lake Bizerte against pollution in Tunisia, which is a flagship UfM-labelled project developed as part of the H2020 initiative, continued to be a priority for the UfM Secretariat throughout 2017. During the year, the UfM Secretariat engaged with stakeholders of the project for the disbursement of the amounts dedicated to the Project Management Unit through the EIB. With an investment of €90 million provided by the EIB, the EBRD, the EU and the Tunisian Government, the project is integrated in the Horizon 2020 for a cleaner Mediterranean Sea and is expected to last until 2022.

The UfM strategic communication on the project has been highlighted as a strong example for regional cooperation and has attracted the highest possible attention from development actors, considering its impact at both local and regional levels and its symbolic weight in term of progressing towards the achievement of the H2020 initiative objectives.

The **REHABILITATION OF THE LAKE OF BIZERTE** is expected to contribute to the depollution of the Mediterranean as well as to stimulate economic growth:

The **Bizerte project** is expected to benefit around

**500 000 inhabitants**

of the Governorate of Bizerte and stimulate **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES** for young people



It will work with  
**3 LARGE STATE-OWNED COMPANIES**



and around 20 other local businesses in various sectors to improve production processes and make them more environmentally friendly

The project will give access to sanitation to:

**10 000**



**PEOPLE** living in urban areas and a further and

**26 000**

in rural areas



**Promoter:** Tunisian Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment

**Partners:** European Investment Bank (EIB)  
• European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) • Global Environment Facility (GEF).

### OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE

The UfM participated in the 4th edition of the Our Ocean conference on the 5-6 October 2017 in Malta, to ensure a greater visibility of the Mediterranean shared agendas for Water and Environment promoted by the UfM.



In September 2017, the UfM Secretariat was granted observer status at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, one of the three Rio conventions on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification, further strengthening the connections between the UfM action and the 2030 Agenda.

## The Blue Economy: at the crossroads of the UfM action for human and sustainable development

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 economy are remarkable; in the EU alone, the Blue Economy could unlock two million jobs by 2020 and many more jobs could be created throughout the region, thus giving young people real prospects for the future.

### UfM Regional Stakeholders Conference on Blue Economy

The UfM Regional Stakeholder Conference on the Blue Economy, which was held in Naples on 29-30 November 2017, was the occasion to capitalise on this potential in an inclusive manner, bringing together over 400 key stakeholders dealing with marine and maritime issues from the entire region.

The two-day event aimed at consolidating a Mediterranean blue economy community working on sustainable development solutions for the region, as well as creating partnerships and initiatives to harness the potential for blue

growth. To that effect, the UfM Secretariat launched a revamped Virtual Knowledge Centre on the Blue Economy, a web-based information and networking platform for blue economy stakeholders in the Mediterranean.



On this occasion, the UfM Secretariat and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of the FAO came together to sign a Memorandum of Understanding which engages both parties to cooperate on actions in support of the blue economy and of marine governance in the Mediterranean Sea.

For more information:



“The Mediterranean is a part of the destiny shared by the ten Countries which today agreed with the European Union and the Union for the Mediterranean on the fact that its environmental protection and development are essential for our future. In order to make an important contribution to the global growth of our societies, we strive to turn the Mediterranean sea into an area of peaceful and sustainable development at social, economic and environmental level.”

**Graziano Delrio,**  
Minister of Infrastructure and Transport of Italy.

## Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean

The Ministers of Western Mediterranean countries gathered in Naples on the margins of the UfM Regional Stakeholder Conference on the Blue Economy to endorse and launch the Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean – a goal-oriented series of joint actions to make the common sea space safer, cleaner and more productive.

In 2015, UfM Ministers agreed on the need for the Mediterranean region to make the best use of the potential of the blue economy, and invited the participating countries to explore avenues for sub-regional cooperation. In response to that vision, in April 2017, the European Commission launched the initiative at building the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean region which aims for a more secure maritime space, better governance of the seas, and a smart and resilient blue economy.

### Projects with regional impact: Zoom on 2017 achievements

## Med Coasts for Blue Growth

Aiming to promote sustainable tourism in the world's second-largest destination for cruise-ship tourism, the UfM added Med Coasts for Blue Growth (MedCoast4BG) to its projects portfolio during the Senior Officials Meeting held on 11 December 2017.

With a budget of € 3.085 million, the project will majorly contribute to establishing common approaches and planning tools to boost sustainable coastal and maritime tourism in the Mediterranean. It will be mainly carried out through the analysis and promotion of the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems in coastal areas, particularly devoted to tourism.

**Promoter:** CPMR Inter-Mediterranean Commission

**Partners:** Emilia - Romagna Region, Italy • Institute of Marine Sciences - Italian National Research Council (CNR) • Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), Croatia • Region of East Macedonia and Thrace - REMTH • Department of Hérault, France • IUAV (Venice University) • University of Thessaly • Po Delta Park Veneto Region • Dubrovnik Neretva Regional Development Agency (DUNEA) • Public Institution for Coordination and Development of Split Dalmatia County (RERA SD) • Foundation Valencia port



## Investing in sustainable transport and urban development

The Mediterranean is a sea that brings people together. Today, over 60% of the population in the region is living in urban areas, and by 2030, nearly 80% will be concentrated on 10% of the land, predominantly on the coastline. Increasing transport connectivity, facilitating mobility and improving liveability in urban areas remain therefore among the highest strategic priorities for the region.

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 and capitalising on its rapid urban growth could significantly contribute to unleashing this potential, leading to increased prosperity and socio-economic development.

Acknowledging these opportunities, the UfM works on fostering efficient, integrated and sustainable transport and urban infrastructure networks in the Mediterranean in close cooperation with key international, regional and local stakeholders.

**INSUFFICIENT LOGISTICS** can cause a loss estimated at **6%** per year in **TRADE VOLUME** between countries

**3,6%** growth in **REGIONAL TRADE** and a

**6,5%** growth in exports could result from **TRADE FACILITATIONS** and transport infrastructure improvements



[SOURCE: WORLD BANK]

## POLICY FRAMEWORK

### 2nd UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development

Cairo 22 May 2017

### UfM Ministerial Conference on Transport

Brussels 14 November 2013

### 1st UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development

Strasbourg 10 November 2011

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Develop a regional transport network fostering socio-economic development and regional integration
- Contribute to implementing the UfM Urban Agenda with a view to fostering inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable urban development
- Enhance regional dialogue efforts through a multi-stakeholder framework bringing together UfM Member States and key partners and stakeholders to share best practices and develop projects, providing them with technical support and mobilizing financing instruments in particular from IFIs

## CONTRIBUTION TO SDGS



## Advancing Connectivity and Mobility over Land and Sea

### Scaling up Transport Connectivity in the Mediterranean

In preparation of the next UfM Ministerial Conference on Transport, in 2017, the UfM Secretariat held several coordination meetings with its Co-Presidency to discuss ways to effectively enhance transport connectivity in the region, and agree on a list of priority regional projects that would be potentially labelled by the UfM.

The UfM has been actively engaged in addressing the complex challenges facing the transport sector in the Euro-Mediterranean region and implementing the transport objectives agreed on at the 2013 UfM Transport Ministerial Conference and in the UfM Roadmap adopted by the Foreign Ministers in January 2017. To this end, the UfM Secretariat was mandated to create the UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity with dedicated working groups on Land, Air and Maritime Transport and Logistics Connectivity, as well as the UfM-IFIs Transport Project Committee. The platform will bring together government representatives, key regional and international partner organisations, IFIs as well as the private sector to collectively elaborate a UfM Strategy for Transport Connectivity that aims to develop an efficient, integrated, interoperable and sustainable transport infrastructure network in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

A first UfM Ad-Hoc SOM on Transport will be held in Barcelona on 30 January 2018.

### Projects with regional impact: Zoom on 2017 achievements

## OPTIMED Implementation

The project OPTIMED Implementation labelled by the UfM on 1 June 2016, is aimed at implementing a new Mediterranean corridor from South-Eastern (Lebanon, Egypt and Cyprus) to North-Western Ports (Spain, France and Italy), to ultimately optimize and strengthen trade connections amongst the ports of the Mediterranean. A field visit was conducted by the UfM Secretariat to Cagliari on 22 March 2017 to meet with the project promoter and partners. Following up on this visit, two new actions will be taken on by the promoter to facilitate and speed up the project's implementation, namely:

1. Running a series of tests "at sea";
2. Identifying and implementing the improvements needed at the level of the ports of Porto Torres and Beirut to conduct the tests and allow for the start of the new maritime service by the end of 2018.

**Promoter:** Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy)

**Partners:** University of Cagliari - CIREM • North Sardinia Port Authority • Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce • European Short Sea Shipping School • Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut and Mount Lebanon



## LOGISMED-TA

The current lack of qualified staff, adequate training programmes and harmonized logistics systems hinders the potential for regional integration in the Mediterranean region. In this perspective, the development of capacity-building activities on logistics and transport will be essential to the success of the on-going transitions.

The UfM supports LOGISMED-TA, the training component of LOGISMED initiative, a programme launched by the EIB to develop the logistics sector in Southern Mediterranean countries. LOGISMED-TA aims at increasing the qualifications and skills of logistics platforms' operators and managers to improve the performance and competitiveness of the logistics sector. It focuses more specifically on the constitution of a network of experts who will lead the transformation of the transport and logistics sectors and create a Euro-Mediterranean market of logistic specialists, contributing ultimately to the creation of qualified logistics jobs in the region.

2017 saw the beginning of the training activities which will be progressively implemented in the beneficiary countries, namely Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria. These activities will further develop a common reference framework for logistics jobs and courses as well as activities enabling knowledge transfer and exchange of best practices.

**Promoter:** European Investment Bank (EIB/BEI)

**Partners:** European Commission • the Deauville Partnership Transition Fund, and the Governments of Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.

## TranslogMED

The 43 UfM Members States unanimously supported the labelling of "TranslogMed: Training actions supporting the implementation of sustainable transport and logistics chains and intermodal solutions in the Mediterranean region".

Building upon and complementing LOGISMED-TA, TransLogMED's capacity-building activities will address the whole logistics chain and will be oriented to the implementation of real services. With a total budget of 1.5 million euros over a 5-year period, the project will aim to foster regional integration in the Mediterranean, enhance professional performance, as well as promote employment and gender equality in the transport and logistics sector. These aims will be realized through the promotion of intermodal solutions,

including maritime transport, as well as road, rail or inland navigation; the implementation of training and knowledge-transfer actions; and, ultimately, the development of sustainable transport chains and door-to-door logistics activities.

The project implementation started in October 2017 and the first training courses took place in November 2017 in the port of Tanger Med (Morocco).

**Promoter:** European School of Short Sea Shipping (2e3s)

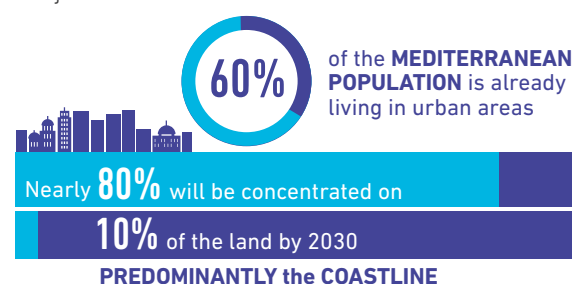
**Partners:** École Nationale Supérieure de Technologie (ENST) • Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport • Jordan Academy for Maritime Studies • Institut de Formation Portuaire • Institut Méditerranéen de Formation aux Métiers Maritimes (IMFMM)

## Building sustainable cities in the Mediterranean

### UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development

In response to the pressing demographic and urban challenges the region is facing, the UfM Secretariat organised the 2nd UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development on 21 and 22 May 2017 in Cairo.

Ministers in charge of housing, municipal affairs and urban development from the 43 UfM Member States agreed on a UfM Urban Agenda to step-up regional cooperation on sustainable urban development, with a view to ensure sustainable urbanization and enhance, through an integrated approach, the liveability of urban areas. This Ministerial Conference was an important milestone, as UfM Ministers agreed to set up a structured framework for UfM cooperation efforts in the years to come through the creation of the "UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development" as well as the "UfM-IFIs Urban Project Committee".

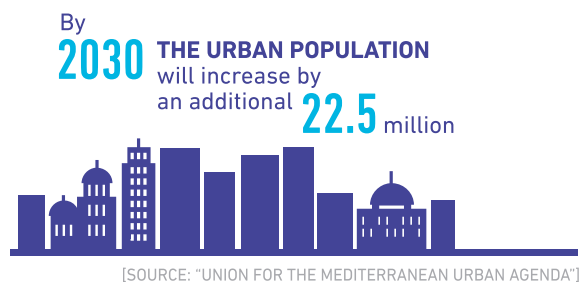


[SOURCE: EIB]

## UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development

Only five months after the 2nd UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development, the UfM Secretariat successfully launched the 1st UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development on 9 November 2017 in Brussels. This Conference marked an important step towards implementing the UfM Urban Agenda, through a well-structured multi-stakeholder framework for dialogue and technical cooperation that will take the Euro-Mediterranean partnership in the urban sector a leap forward.

The meeting gathered more than 80 participants, including high-level government representatives, key institutional and financial partners, as well as the private sector. It provided a good opportunity to discuss innovative and sustainable solutions, promote better knowledge and best practices on common urban development priorities, and identify new projects that would be replicated in the region. Its working groups will focus on the thematic of "Sustainable and Affordable Housing" and "Urban Regeneration" over the upcoming two years.



“Like the EU, the Union for the Mediterranean has adopted a real urban roadmap and I very much welcome that. I hope the UfM will draw on the experience and best practices of the Urban Agenda for the EU, and make cities close partners. (...) Cities’ involvement in policy-making on key urban matters, together with local stakeholders from the civil society or the business sphere, will benefit the lives of millions of people around the Mediterranean.”

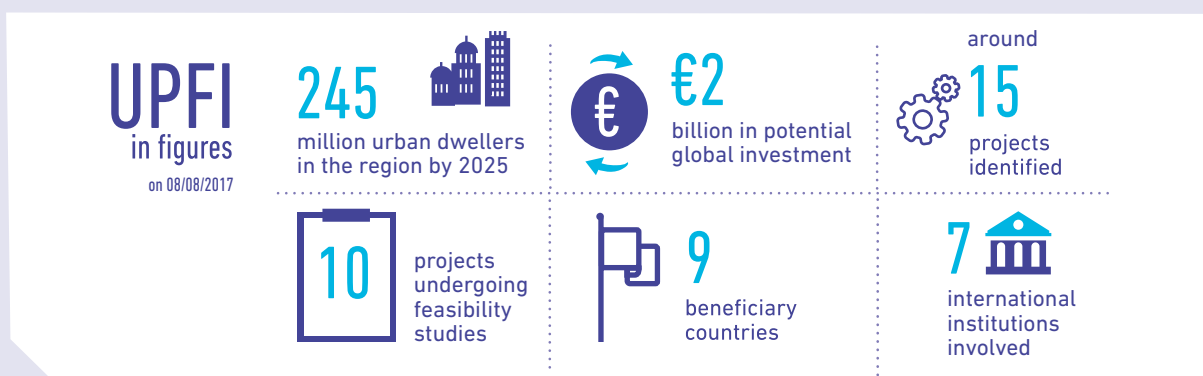
**Corina Crețu,**  
EU Commissioner for Regional Policy.



“The 2nd Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development serves as an exceptional opportunity for the Mediterranean countries to enhance and develop cooperation at regional and international levels. The aim is to achieve security and stability in the Mediterranean region through enhancing sustainable urban development and creating projects to develop the local communities and provide job opportunities for young people to empower them to effectively participate in the development of their local communities.”

**Walid Almasri,**  
Minister of Municipal Affairs of Jordan.

## URBAN PROJECTS FINANCE INITIATIVE: TOGETHER FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



The Union for the Mediterranean, the European Union, the European Investment Bank and the French Development Agency have joined forces to build a successful transition towards sustainable Mediterranean cities. The Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI) is an innovative tool coordinating the actions of financial institutions to achieve a common objective: setting a benchmark for sustainable cities in the Mediterranean. UPFI supports public project promoters in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, helping them to prepare and finance ambitious and innovative urban development projects, which aim to create jobs, reduce poverty and upgrade the urban fabric.

The regional potential of some of these projects has been recognised by the Union for the Mediterranean and its 43 member states, which gave the UfM label to 5 of them.

As access to finance is of key importance in implementing the UfM Urban Agenda, the UfM Secretariat organised the 1st Kick-off Meeting of the UfM-IFIs Project Committee - UPFI Project Committee, back-to-back with the UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development on 10 November 2017.

With a view to give a new impetus to the UPFI and increase its impact on the ground, the European Resilience Initiative (ERI)-UPFI was approved in December 2017, for an amount of € 4.5 millions funded by EIB, to further support urban projects increasing the economic resilience of the UfM countries through AFD/EIB financing.

### IMBABA URBAN UPGRADING PROJECT, MODEL OF SUSTAINABLE URBAN REDEVELOPMENT

The Imbaba Urban Upgrading Project was launched in May 2017 during the Second UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development with the aim to strengthen the integration of Imbaba, one of the most densely inhabited urban area in Egypt which suffers from increased urbanisation. This urban redevelopment project will provide new basic public facilities, job and revenue-creating activities and public spaces.

#### Expected results

- 70 hectares of the kawmeya district redeveloped
- 2 million beneficiaries of the project
- 250,000 potential users of the new public services and facilities



“The Union for the Mediterranean provides a strong political momentum for the visibility of the Urban Projects Finance Initiative, drawing on its relationships with the Mediterranean countries and by labelling projects to confirm their quality.”

**Jan Vapaavuori,**  
Vice-President of EIB.

## MULTI-SITE URBAN REGENERATION PROJECT IN JERICHO: A PROJECT WITH MANY BENEFITS FOR ITS INHABITANTS AND ITS ECONOMY

The city of Jericho is the main hub of the region located on the west bank of the River Jordan in Palestine, and plays a vital role in the economic development of the Jericho Governorate. The city faces a number of urban challenges due to the fact that it is the only city of the governorate.

In order to improve living conditions for its inhabitants, UPFI is working with the Jericho Municipality by reorganizing and upgrading important public and leisure facilities and extending the city's green spaces.

### Expected results

- rehabilitation of 3 sites
- 50,000 beneficiary inhabitants
- improvement of municipal facilities and creation of public spaces

## SFAX TAPARURA PROJECT: CREATING A NEW MIXED-USE URBAN NEIGHBOURHOOD RECONNECTING SFAX TO ITS COASTLINE

Sfax has launched a planning project for a new neighbourhood based on the principle of sustainable development. Taparura, 'rising from the waters of the Mediterranean', is an ambitious integrated urban development project that aims to make the port city of Sfax more attractive. Located in the east of Tunisia near the Gulf of Gabès, and with more than 500,000 inhabitants, Greater Sfax is the country's second largest city and the second economic hub, thanks to the export of agricultural produce such as olive oil and fish. The aim of this development project is to create a mixed-use neighbourhood that is integrated within the existing urban fabric, taking advantage of the coastal nature of the site.

### Expected results

- 420 hectares of sustainable urban development reclaimed from the sea
- 50,000 to 70,000 potential new residents for the taparura site

## INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOUREGREG VALLEY

Since 2006, the Bouregreg Valley Development Agency (AAVB) has been working for the development of the Bouregreg Valley in order to provide a new space for living, working and recreation within the Rabat-Salé-Témara metropolitan area, home to 2 million inhabitants. Based on an integrated urban development model, this creation of an eco-city rests on four principles: protecting the environment of the valley, promoting a social and civic approach, preserving and rehabilitating heritage, and improving the living environment of the population.

### Expected results

- an eco-city of nearly 6,000 hectares
- 6 zones developed
- 3,200,000 m<sup>2</sup> of built area over zone 3 of the project (labelled by the UfM)

## THE IZMIR URBAN INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT: AN INNOVATIVE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

As Izmir's current solid waste landfill facility is reaching its full capacity, the project will provide high quality integrated solid waste management for the city at a critical time, and will adopt an exemplary, innovative and environmentally-friendly urban infrastructure approach. The project will bring significant environmental benefits for Izmir by minimizing associated impacts of solid waste management, and will improve the living standards of the population.

### Expected results

- 9 districts in the region benefitting a population of 2.7 million





## Implementing the New Urban Agenda in the Mediterranean Region

Following the MoU that was signed between the UfM and UN-Habitat in April 2016, progress was made in 2017 to strengthen their institutional partnership and create further synergies in the Mediterranean region.

On the margins of the Second UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development (Cairo, May 2017), both organisations agreed to develop a new Multi-Partner Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development.

In this framework, the UfM Secretariat held a High-Level Roundtable in New York City on 7 September 2017: "Towards implementing the New Urban Agenda in the Mediterranean Region". The meeting, organised on the margins of the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on the New Urban Agenda (5-6 September 2017), built an important momentum to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Euro-Mediterranean region. It facilitated synergies between IFIs and donors as the first step in creating an effective coordination mechanism amongst the existing facilities currently being defined.



“Population and economic growth, industrial development, urbanisation and rising standards of living accompanied with changes in consumption patterns in the MENA region, together with heavy reliance on oil and gas, has led to growing greenhouse gas emissions in the region.

The recent Memorandum of Understanding signed between UN-Habitat and the Union for the Mediterranean (...) is an excellent platform to undertake joint actions for an integrated approach to socially and environmentally sustainable urban development.”

**Dr. Joan Clos,**  
Executive Director of UN-Habitat.



UfM Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development, May 2017 in Cairo (Egypt)

## STORIES FROM THIS YEAR:

### Together with AVITEM for the Mediterranean of the future

The high-level conference “Méditerranée du Futur” was held in Marseille on 21 November 2017 to promote joint actions for the climate agreements. The Conference gathered over 600 participants and was inaugurated by H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, H.E. Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France and Renaud Muselier, President of the Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur (PACA). UfM Deputy Secretary General Amb. Ihab Fahmy delivered a keynote speech in the opening session, and the conference counted on the interventions of Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations, António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Hachem Hmidi, Minister for Mines and Renewable Energy of Tunisia, H.E. César Abi Khalil, Minister of Energy and Water of Lebanon and Rémy Rioux, Director General of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

The Conference delved into key questions such as local commitments to SDGs, the importance of sustainable urbanization in the fight against climate change, green and blue economic opportunities and innovative financing for climate action, and closed with a projection of Al Gore’s latest film “An Inconvenient Sequel” (2017). At this occasion, an MoU was signed with the Agence des villes et territoires méditerranéens durables (AViTeM) to undertake joint actions to advance sustainable urban development in the Mediterranean region.

The UfM Secretariat and the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on November 2017 to strengthen collaboration on sustainable urban mobility. Cooperation between the parties is aimed at addressing the pressing challenges facing urban areas in the Mediterranean region and at contributing to the achievement of SDGs

in the region, through the identification and development of projects for possible UfM labelling, the organisation of joint events, the provision of advisory services, the organization of training and capacity building programmes, and the exchange of knowledge and experience between experts from both parties, among other activities.





# Engaging in energy transition and climate action

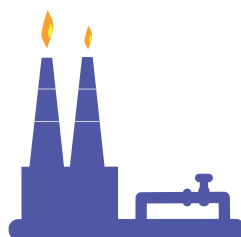
The Mediterranean region has been identified as one of the major hotspots of climate change in the world. **Indeed, the rise of average temperature by 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels, being the lower limit not to be surpassed as agreed through the Paris Agreement, has already been exceeded<sup>1</sup>.** The adverse consequences of climate change on the countries of the region are thus numerous, but more particularly interdependent and collective. Moreover, as the region is home to an increasing population, **a 98% increase in energy demand is estimated in Southern Mediterranean countries by 2040<sup>2</sup>.**

With an intensive industrialization and tourism growth, but also increasing public expectations for a more secure, clean and affordable energy supply, there is a clear need of multiplying collective efforts in this field. In this context, the UfM has engaged, through its role as a platform for the promotion of regional dialogue and cooperation, in dealing with energy challenges and climate change threats in the region, while advancing towards more secure and sustainable energy models.

## Fostering regional cooperation in the energy sector

Throughout 2017, the UfM Secretariat has continued to work towards a structured cooperation at regional and sub-regional level in order to tackle energy-related challenges in the Mediterranean region. A robust, multilateral and responsive approach in this framework is essential to strengthen the energy market, both in the North and the South, and foster interconnectivity, ultimately promoting regional integration.

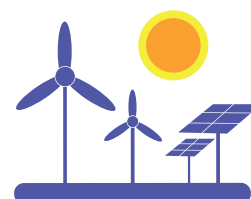
Efforts have been developed in the framework of the **three UfM Energy Platforms**, mandated by the **UfM Ministerial Conference on Energy of 2016** and launched in **2017**



The **UfM GAS PLATFORM**  
UfM Gas Platform



The **UfM REGIONAL ELECTRICITY MARKET (REM) PLATFORM**



The **UfM RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY (REE) PLATFORM**

## POLICY FRAMEWORK

**UfM Ministerial Conference on Energy** Rome 1 December 2016

**UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change** Athens 13 May 2014

**UfM Ministerial Conference on Energy** Brussels 11 December 2013

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

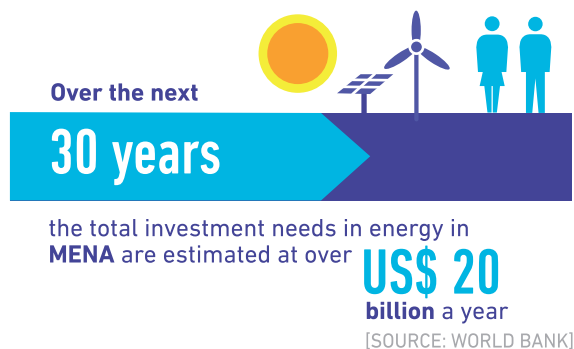
- Promote a Mediterranean agenda for energy and climate action linked to the global agenda.
- Reinforce and animate a structured regional dialogue on energy and climate action among Member States, regional organizations, financial institutions, civil society, private sector and experts.
- Support the promotion of projects and initiatives as well as their implementation and replicability, in line with the priorities identified within the dialogue platforms.

## CONTRIBUTION TO SDGS



<sup>1</sup> SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC)

<sup>2</sup> SOURCE: OME



## 1st UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum

Releasing renewable energy opportunities is key to socio-economic development in the Euro-Mediterranean region. This was the theme of the first UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum, held in Cairo on 18 October 2017, under the auspices of the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy and the New and Renewable Energy Authority of Egypt. With the aim of fostering regional cooperation in the energy sector, this event brought together more than 150 high-level government officials from UfM countries, representatives of large private companies and start-up teams working on renewable energies, as well as international financial institutions and development banks.

### The Forum led to three major outcomes:

- Participants agreed on the need to promote regional cooperation through the creation of a federation of energy-related business associations in the Euro-Mediterranean region in order to encourage private sector initiatives in the energy sector.
- Participants called for structuring a dialogue platform to explore the potential of PPPs in the UfM region as an essential tool to foster investments on the renewable energy sector.
- Participants suggested integrating international business networks working on energy transition, such as the World Alliance for Efficient Solutions, in order to replicate and develop new innovative solutions, both in terms of technology and business models.

The Forum was organised in collaboration with the "Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie" (OME) and the World Alliance for Efficient Solutions (WAES), with the financial support of the Government of Sweden. Its second edition will take place in Portugal in 2019.

Through the 2016 Rome UfM Ministerial Declaration on Energy, Ministers from the 43 UfM Member States expressed their will to "foster sustainable development by ensuring that all consumers and industries have access to a secure, sustainable, affordable and reliable energy supply and to modern energy services".

## Going local for energy efficiency and renewable energy

Within the mandate of the UfM Energy Ministerial Declaration on Energy, the UfM Secretariat has begun working with local authorities to support their efforts towards energy efficiency and renewable energy. The Secretariat has started identifying successful projects implemented in this field by municipalities in UfM Member States in order to promote their replicability in the region.

In this regard, the UfM Secretariat organized in 2017 two informal brainstorming workshops in Barcelona, with the objective to strengthen regional cooperation and to promote coordination of ongoing and future efforts by local authorities in energy efficiency and renewable energy. These



"The Mediterranean is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change. The need for a regional response to address these global challenges becomes more than evident, and so does the importance of involving all relevant stakeholders, including local governments, citizens and local stakeholders. Cooperation between cities is now at the core of regional strategies against climate change in the Mediterranean."

**Mohamed Idaomar,**  
President of MedCities and Mayor of Tetouan.



UfM-labelled project Tafila Wind Farm



informal workshops provided valuable input for the preparation of the UfM upcoming activities to support local energy transition, as well as useful networking opportunities among local authorities and experts from the region to be built upon throughout 2018.

#### Projects with regional impact: Zoom on 2017 achievements

### SEMed Private Renewable Energy Framework

The SEMed Private Renewable Energy Framework (SPREF) is a UfM-labelled project promoted by EBRD with the aim of stimulating the development of private renewable energy markets in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. SPREF will provide financing and mobilise further investment from third parties of up to €834 million to prevent 780,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually.

SPREF falls under the umbrella of the UfM Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REEE) Platform, launched on the same day with the aim of promoting the deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in energy generation, transmission, distribution and end use. The first project under the SPREF programme is the 120 MW Khalladi windfarm near Tangiers, in Morocco, one of the first private renewable energy projects in the country.

In 2017, significant direct policy dialogue work by EBRD played a key role in the success of the current renewable energy support scheme. In the same lines, the EBRD has started to work on its new energy strategy, seeking input from the widest possible range of stakeholders to ensure that its review is informed about the full range of concerns and opportunities in the energy sector for the coming years. Consultations with Mediterranean countries will be held in June 2018



“Portugal encourages the development of a strategic partnership between our friends and neighbours from the Euro-Mediterranean region, contributing to the integration of energy markets and developing a real energy bridge between all.”

**Jorge Seguro Sanches,**  
Secretary of State of Energy of Portugal.

during a joint seminar organised with the UfM Secretariat at its headquarters in Barcelona.

**Promoter:** European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

**Financial Partners:** EBRD • The Clean Technology Fund (CTF) • and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

## Promoting Climate Action in the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean region is subject to proven climate stress and UfM Member States are already witnessing the adverse effects of climate change. A reinforced and active cooperation on climate action is therefore not only needed but represents an opportunity for both shores to structure a truly shared Mediterranean agenda and achieve the ultimate goals of integration and sustainable development in the region.

In this time of action and mobilization, climate finance proves to be one of the most crucial aspects of the global effort to fend off the effects of climate change. In this sense, the UfM Roadmap for action aims to develop the existing regional dialogue on Climate Action with a strong focus on climate finance.

In 2017, the UfM has strongly engaged in amplifying efforts towards more balanced financial flows between mitigation and adaption to climate change projects in the region.

### UfM Climate Finance study

In cooperation with IFIs and donors involved in the Euro-Mediterranean region, the UfM Secretariat has commissioned the first regional study on climate finance to provide a clear overview of the funding flows for climate action initiatives in the region. Financed through the European Commission, this study was publicly presented during the 23rd Conference of Parties (COP23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn in November 2017, during a side-event that the UfM co-organised with OME.

Among other conclusions, the study showed that there is a window of opportunities for an enhanced and coordinated regional action, notably through the promotion of region-wide projects focused on climate change adaptation and the active

The Southern and Eastern countries of the Mediterranean region have received USD **6.8 billion** in climate financing per year, representing from **11% to 16%** of the worldwide funding for climate action

**3 out of 14**

countries in the region account for



of total funding



The main beneficiary countries of the funding flows are currently

around <b>40%</b>	<b>TURKEY</b>
around <b>20%</b>	<b>MOROCCO</b>
around <b>15%</b>	<b>EGYPT</b>
around <b>10%</b>	<b>JORDAN</b>

Projects with a **REGIONAL DIMENSION** still represent only

**3%**

**MITIGATION PROJECTS** make up the vast majority of the funds obtained

**47%**

while financing allocated to adapting to climate change is still emerging

**10%**

and therefore represents a vast source of **OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERVENTION**





involvement of the private sector in climate financing. The UfM Secretariat will launch a second phase of the study in 2018 to identify gaps related to the global financing target and seek solutions to optimise the use of financial instruments.

## UNFCCC Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance

In order to further strengthen regional collaboration on climate finance, the UfM Secretariat joined efforts with the UNFCCC to co-organise the annual forum of its Standing Committee on Finance on 6-7 September 2017 in Rabat, Morocco.

The overall objective of this forum was to identify gaps in mobilizing and accessing finance for climate-resilient infrastructure and to provide high-level policy inputs and recommendations on how to scale up investment in climate-resilient infrastructures.

The Standing Committee on Finance of the UNFCCC promotes regional ramifications of the global common response to climate change. By co-organising the 2017 annual forum, the UfM has further linked the Mediterranean efforts for climate action to the 2030 Agenda.



“Climate challenges are the cornerstone of global solidarity. We’re duty-bound to exceed our targets and go further, faster. I’d like the ecological and inclusive transition – this tremendous opportunity which is not only economic and environmental but also societal – to improve the daily lives of all French people. And we must share this solidarity at international level.”

**Nicolas Hulot,**  
Ministre d’Etat, Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition of France.



## UfM Climate and Environment Week

14 and 15 March 2017 saw the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change convened at the UfM Secretariat headquarters in Barcelona. This meeting was organized to review the progress made in the implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change adopted in May 2014. Discussions focused on the topics prioritised by the Declaration, namely depollution and pollution prevention, sustainable consumption and production, climate change, as well as education for sustainable development. Additionally, the meeting set the path towards the post-2020 UfM agenda to take action against the upcoming environmental and climate-related challenges.

On this occasion, the UfM Climate Change Expert Group held its fifth meeting to discuss the support provided to UfM Member States in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. In parallel, more than 50 representatives of

governments, international organisations and scientists from the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC), met for the first time at the UfM headquarters to set the ground for the publication of the first ever assessment report on the impact of climate change in the Mediterranean region. The report is expected to be finalized by November 2018 and presented at the COP24.

## Youth for Climate Action

The Mediterranean Youth Climate Network (MYCN) is a network of seven youth associations in the Mediterranean region which are deeply concerned about the impact of climate change on the region. With the support of the UfM, the network establishing priority actions for youth

The **MEDITERRANEAN REGION** is characterised by a unique, rich, yet fragile biodiversity.

IT IS ESTIMATED  
THAT BETWEEN **10,000** and  
**12,000**

marine species thrive in the sea.  
Many of these species are  
threatened by the effects of  
climate change



[SOURCE: OCEANA]



### STORIES FROM THIS YEAR:

#### Light Us Relay

On the threshold of the COP23, 80 young people from both shores of the Mediterranean travelled from Marrakech to Bonn in 20 electric vehicles in order to raise awareness about climate change in the region. The initiative, led by the Mediterranean Intelligence & Public Affairs Institute, demonstrated that we can now travel long distances in an electric vehicle.

The UfM Secretariat actively supported this initiative and welcomed the group of young people at its headquarters in Barcelona, during the third stage of their trip.

To learn more about this innovative project:







“Generating job opportunities and fighting climate change are among the top priorities for young people. Young people can act as a driving force for sustainable development if we all work together. That’s why we have created the Mediterranean Youth Climate Network with the support of the UfM, a place to share ideas and implement tangible action, putting the Mediterranean region at the forefront of the movement in support of sustainable development.”

**Imene Bouchair,**  
Mediterranean Youth Climate Network.

First General Assembly of MYCN at the UfM Secretariat



climate action in the region and contributes to international and regional climate fora to highlight young people’s voices.

In line with its strategy for climate action and youth empowerment, the UfM Secretariat hosted MYCN’s first General Assembly meeting in Barcelona on 24 February 2017. The main results of the meeting were:

1. Election of the members of the board and their missions;
2. Definition of the main priorities of the 2017 strategy;
3. Setting up the network’s website and next steps.

Furthermore, the UfM with MYCN co-organised a second side-event during the COP23, under the theme “Engaging Youth in Climate Action in the Mediterranean”. The event showcased the support the UfM gives to youth networks and highlighted several projects and initiatives that reflect the engagement of young people in leading concrete actions to fight climate change in the Mediterranean.

UfM Delegation at the COP23 in Bonn (Germany)



# SCALING UP IMPACT: BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE





## Strategic partnerships and engagement

### *Delivering together for the Mediterranean*

In 2017, the Union for the Mediterranean continued forging and strengthening strategic partnerships with key global, regional and sub-regional stakeholders, positioning 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 institutional relations with key actors involved in regional cooperation, reinforcing strategic collaboration with financial stakeholders, and establishing connections with global actors to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

### Fostering synergies at regional level

Given the unprecedented waves of challenges faced in the Euro-Mediterranean region, it has never been more obvious that single responses are not sufficient. Regional challenges call for regional solutions. That is why the UfM continues to work hand in hand with international, regional and sub-regional organisations active in the Mediterranean to deliver sustainable solutions to address the three interrelated priorities of the region - human development, stability and regional integration.

The UfM Secretariat works with various Euro-Mediterranean institutions which form its immediate eco-system. It fosters close relations with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM), the European Parliament, and national parliaments of UfM countries and their respective committees in

order to ensure more visibility for UfM work in the region.

- In May 2017, the UfM Secretariat took part in the 13th PA-UfM General Assembly Session, held in Rome under the Italian Presidency. The session was devoted to discuss the "Sustainable Development and New Job Opportunities in the Mediterranean Area: Med4jobs and Agenda 2030", issues that remain at the heart of the work developed by the UfM.

The League of Arab States is also a key partner for the UfM in the region. A MoU was signed with LAS in October 2017 between both organisations with a view to strengthening mutual collaboration and promoting regional cooperation activities. Several actions and initiatives have been also developed in the last years with the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU).

The UfM also maintains a close interaction with the Anna Lindh Foundation, working in the area of intercultural and interfaith dialogue in the Mediterranean, and cooperates as well with the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) in order to develop its territorial dimension.

Furthermore, it is increasingly developing synergies with regional and sub-regional initiatives, being involved in the activities developed under the framework of the 5+5 Dialogue and actively participating in its sectorial dialogues and meetings including the ones on water, higher education, and research & innovation. Additionally, the UfM Secretariat continues to strengthen its relations with the Agadir agreement Member States towards the reinforcement of sub-regional economic integration in the region.



2017 Euro-Med Summit of Economic and Social Councils



“Today is an important moment because I think there are two things that are new, that did not exist before in the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, and that exist since the Union for the Mediterranean was created: the principle of variable geometry and the principle of enhanced cooperation. There is a huge opportunity in applying these principles to further deepen cooperation in the Western Mediterranean.”

**Senén Florensa,**  
Executive President of IEMed.

#### • Med Think 5+5

In 2017, the UfM has continued to support the activities of Med Think 5+5, a new Regional Network of think tanks promoted by IEMed to embrace dialogue and research as tools of a reinforced regional integration in the Western Mediterranean region through the presentation of findings for the consideration of decision-makers within the framework of the 5+5 Dialogue. The UfM Secretariat has participated in the annual forum of the initiative, organised in Lisbon (Portugal) on 6-7 July 2017, with the aim of reflecting on the channels to promote inclusive socioeconomic development, stability and progress in the Western Mediterranean. It has also co-organised the two international seminars organised in this framework this year, namely “The management of migrations in the Western Mediterranean” in Milan (Italy) and “The Western Mediterranean and the Sahel: Security and socioeconomic development” in Rabat (Morocco).



International Seminar on “The Western Mediterranean and the Sahel: Security and socioeconomic development”

## Promoting the Mediterranean agenda at international level

The UfM has strengthened its working relations with international institutions active in the region to promote the Mediterranean agenda. It has expanded and consolidated relations with the Council of Europe and its European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, also known as North-South Centre, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Training Foundation (ETF), as well as with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), particularly in issues related to youth, women empowerment, and prevention of violent extremism and terrorism.

#### • 2017 OSCE Mediterranean Conference

The UfM Secretariat participated in the 2017 OSCE Mediterranean, held in Palermo (Italy) on 24 and 25 October 2017. The Conference, and in particular its High Level Political Segment, focused on the topic of large movements of migrants and refugees across the Mediterranean and on the challenges, such as security related issues, as well as opportunities they entail for countries on all shores of the basin and beyond, with a view to turning consequent emergencies and crises into opportunities for renewed regional and international co-operation.

The UfM Secretariat has also closely engaged with the World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2017 to give more visibility to the Mediterranean challenges and opportunities, notably by participating in the WEF on the Middle East and North Africa held in the Dead Sea (Jordan) on 19-21 May 2017.

## Developing financial partnerships in support of UfM activities

In 2017, the UfM Secretariat continued to gradually move towards a more structured long-term relationship with major donors and IFIs active in the region.

In this framework, the UfM Secretariat worked closely with the EIB, the EBRD and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), as well as with a number of governments and national cooperation agencies, notably from Spain, France, Germany, Norway and Sweden.

Ultimately, the UfM has also been developing relations with Arab donors and consolidating its relations with businesses for a better involvement



of the private sector in financing and developing projects.

- **Multi-annual financial agreement with the Swedish International Development Agency**

Sweden and the UfM signed a €6.5 million multi-annual financial agreement on the margins of the UfM 2nd Regional Forum on 23 January 2017, to deepen and amplify UfM specific cooperation initiatives and core activities promoting regional dialogue. This support will be focused on MENA countries, within the wider frame of the UfM mandate, to promote a more sustainable and inclusive development in the region.

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

Germany and the UfM joined forces to tackle unemployment, in particular for young women and men, and promote trade in the Mediterranean through a joint declaration signed on 5 October 2017 in Berlin. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) intends to support the UfM Secretariat with an advisory project for the years 2018-2020 to scale up the efforts of the institution towards better long-term prospects for the people in the region.

- **In 2017, the UfM continued implementing the agreement signed with Norway to support projects promoting female entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean region.**



Working meeting in the presence of Mr. Christian Danielsson, Director General for Enlargement at the European Commission and Ms. Irene Mingasson, Head of Unit Regional Cooperation Neighbourhood South



“The region’s social and economic development is hindered by the low level of economic and regional integration. The main focus of our agreement with the UfM Secretariat is to strengthen integration in the Mediterranean by advancing and amplifying UfM regional dialogue and cooperation initiatives on sectors of particular value for the sharing of best practices, fostering dialogue processes and advancing the regional agenda.”

**Anders Frankenberg,**  
SIDA’s Director for the Middle East and North Africa.



“We must put greater emphasis again on viewing the Mediterranean as an area of cooperation. In order to achieve security and development, a strong partnership is needed between Europe and Africa. Our common goal must be to open up opportunities for a good common future for the many young people in North Africa, the Middle East and Europe. The Union for the Mediterranean provides a good basis for this.”

**Thomas Silberhorn,**  
Parliamentary State Secretary of  
Germany.

In this framework, the Secretariat continued to widen and deepen its network of institutional and public affairs partnerships with organisations, foundations and think tanks 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 Union of Mediterranean Universities (UNIMED), the Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE), 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 and Energy Efficiency, the Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau (IME), the Mediterranean Tourism Foundation, etc...

## Engaging with non-governmental actors

The UfM Secretariat aims 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.

The year 2017 was the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. The President of the Republic of Malta and Patron of the Mediterranean Tourism Foundation (MTF), H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, paid a working visit on 7 July 2017 to the UfM Secretariat Headquarters. During this official visit, the UfM and the MTF expressed their views for future collaboration in the tourism sector through specific projects and initiatives, in coherence with the new UfM Roadmap for Action. An MoU is foreseen to be signed in Malta in 2018 between the two organisations.

The UfM Secretariat has also worked to develop close relations with the Economic and Social Councils (ESCs) in order to build strong networks of civil society actors and increase inclusiveness.

The UfM Roadmap acknowledges the importance of tourism for the economies of the countries of the region, as well as its potential for growth and impact on job creation, infrastructure and cultural understanding. 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 national economies.

### • Civil society calls for stronger socio-economic rights, gender equality and social protection in the Mediterranean

The UfM has participated in the 2017 Euro-Mediterranean summit of economic and social councils and similar institutions on 13-14 December in Madrid. The Summit brings together over 120 participants from a range of economic and social councils, representatives of employers, trade unions, other economic and social interests groups and NGOs from UfM Member States. It aims at discussing how to collectively develop stronger common work and deepening collaboration and exchange of good practices between ESCs of the

region. This year's edition focused on three main issues: economic, social and cultural rights; a social protection floor in the Euro-Mediterranean area; and a new generation of women's rights.

## Global commitments, regional achievements

The UfM Secretariat is determined to continue joining forces with the international community to address global challenges and implement the Sustainable Development Goals in the Euro-Mediterranean region through tangible and concrete activities and initiatives, especially for youth.

The UfM was granted observer status by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2015 (Resolution 70/124), paving the way to amplifying its collaboration with the UN system and to build new global strategic partnerships in the fields of regional priorities identified by UfM Members States. In this context, in 2017, the UfM continued to develop its hub of global connections, enhancing its role as a regional chapter for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

### • Creating regional networks around the Sustainable Development Goals

The UfM co-organised the International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals, held on 18-19 September 2017 in Barcelona, with the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi) in the framework of the International Summer School on Higher Education and Research Leadership. The Conference gathered multidisciplinary experts and high-level practitioners from universities, governments, cities and public agencies from around the world to exchange knowledge,

MoU signature between UNOSSC and UfM



ideas, experiences and expectations around the challenges involved with the SDGs, and create a permanent and multidisciplinary knowledge network on implementation of the 2030 Agenda, where all stakeholders learn from each other.

### • Promoting Regional Cooperation and Development through South-South Cooperation

The UfM has partnered with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in 2017 for the realization of a "South-South in Action" report, one of UNOSSC's flagship publication series. The report, entitled *The Union for the Mediterranean: An Action-driven Organization for Regional Cooperation and Development* explores the extent to which the UfM's institutional framework, specific methodology and concrete actions provide key tools to promote South-South and triangular cooperation in the region. It particularly focuses on the UfM contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

As shown throughout this report, the UfM Secretariat has reinforced its relations with various UN Offices, Funds, Programs and Specialized Agencies, notably with: UN Women, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as well as with other UN specialised agencies such as the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) notably through the General Fisheries Commission in the Mediterranean (GFCM), and the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.



# ORGANISATION AND STAFFING



## THE UfM SECRETARIAT TEAM: Consolidating the principles of co-ownership and shared responsibility

The UfM Secretariat operates under the direction of the Secretary General, supported by six Deputy Secretary Generals (DSGs), each in charge of a sectorial division: Social and Civil Affairs; Higher Education and Research; Business Development and Employment; Energy and Climate Action; Water, Environment and Blue Economy; and Transport and Urban Development. The Secretary General and the DSGs are appointed by member States for a three-year term, renewable once. Three DSGs are nominated by EU countries and three by Southern and Eastern countries.

In addition to the six sectorial Divisions, the Secretariat includes horizontal services: the Office of the Secretary General, the Directorate for Operations and Partnerships, Communication and

Public Affairs, and the legal and administrative department.

The UfM Secretariat team consists of more than 60 local and international staff members from over 20 countries, including diplomatic and technical personnel seconded by member States and partner institutions such as the European Commission, the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and France's Caisse des Dépôts.

The composition of the Secretariat, both at DSG and staff levels, further consolidates the UfM core principles of co-ownership and shared responsibility.



## Internships - training the next generation

The UfM Secretariat offers challenging opportunities for young graduate and postgraduate students, or recently graduated candidates from the 43 UfM Member States, to have an experience in an international organisation that will enrich their personal and professional paths.

These internships allow the UfM to benefit from the input and energy of suitably qualified young people, who in turn, gain a good understanding of the UfM ethos and goals and practical work

experience in the field of Euro-Mediterranean relations.

The internship duration is of six months, giving the retained candidates the opportunity to develop contacts in the region and act as informal ambassadors for the Mediterranean in their future careers.



<30

Under 30 years of age



Recent graduates or students from a recognized university with, at least, two years of studies



Knowledge of English, French or Arabic is required. Knowledge of one of the other two or Spanish is an asset

“I have a degree in international relations and political studies, but so far I did not have any occasion to work for any international organization. At the UfM I was given the opportunity to support the provision of financial, contractual and administrative services in the Legal and Administrative Affairs Department. I really enjoy working in the multinational and multicultural environment that offers the UfM Secretariat. I am very lucky because I am supervised by professionals who teach me new skills every day.”

**Karolina Trojanowicz,**  
Poland.

Internship vacancies are opened twice a year on the “Work with us” section of the UfM website:



## Roster of Experts - supporting the implementation of the UfM Secretariat activities

The UfM has launched a call for expressions of interest for independent external consultants who will be mobilized occasionally, depending on the available short or long term missions offered by the UfM Secretariat. This network of technical junior and senior experts will form the "UfM Roster of Experts", that will address the needs of its Secretariat in the following sectors:



Business  
Development  
& Employment



Transport &  
Urban Development



Higher Education &  
Research



Energy &  
Climate Action



Social &  
Civil Affairs



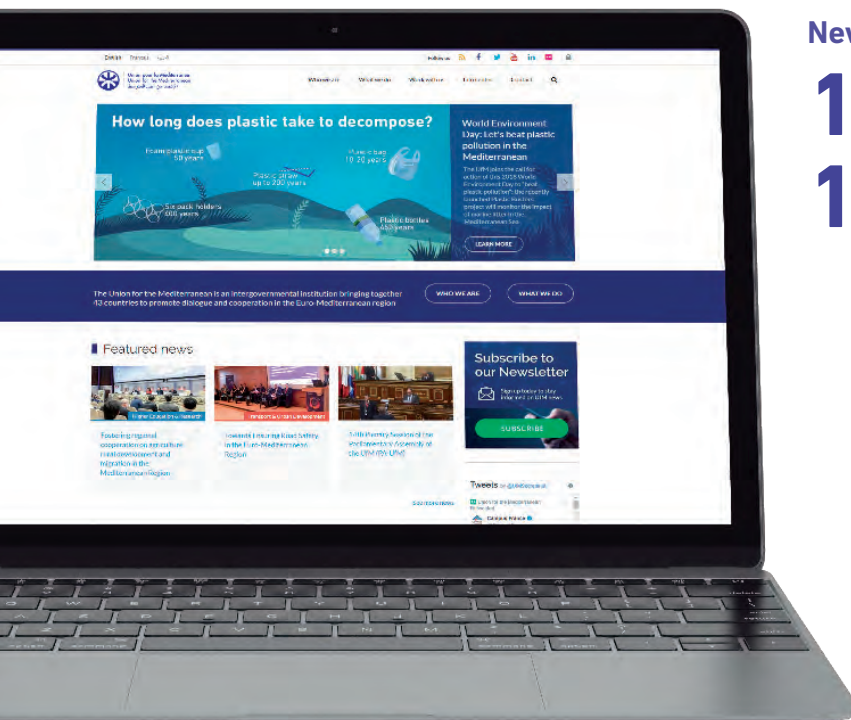
Water &  
Environment

# REACHING OUT

Find out more about the activities of the UfM on our new UfM Website

New website launched in 2017

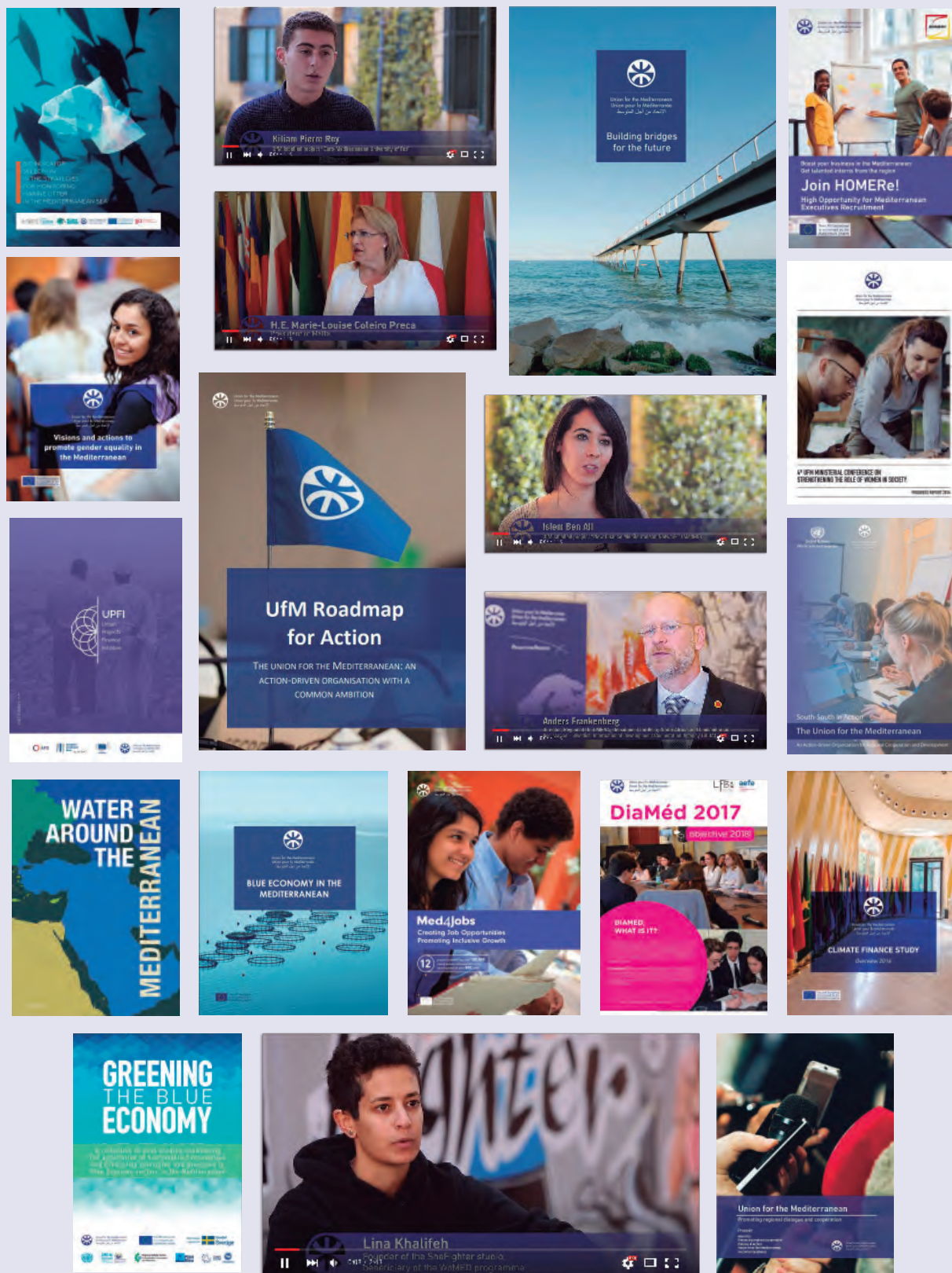
**15,000** Monthly visits  
**107,000** Yearly visitors



**+600** Read about us in the media  
Media articles per month









## Participate to our regional events



Over **5,000** stakeholders coming together in 2017



## Stay informed daily through our social media channels

**360,000** followers



The untapped potential of the **#BlueEconomy** can only be exploited through enhanced **#cooperation** on **#SustainableDevelopment** of the maritime and marine sectors among all Euro-Mediterranean countries

**#UfM4BlueEconomy**  
pic.twitter.com/3LLNjKNNK0



## Subscribe to our newsletter

Join the UfM community of more than 20.000 stakeholders from Government, National & International institutions, Financial Institutions, Opinion leaders, Civil society, Private Sector, Media actors, etc.



# ANNEXES

## List of the UfM-labelled projects

### 2017

DATE OF LABELLING		NAME
11/12/2017		Medcoast4BlueGrowth
16/10/2017	LC	Incorpora – A labour integration program
16/10/2017		Siemed
16/10/2017		TransLogMED

### 2016

14/10/2016		Fostering SME competitiveness and trade in the Agadir Agreement member countries phase 1 – pilot phase
14/10/2016		Izmir Urban Integrated Waste Management Project
01/06/2016	LC	Eastern Mediterranean International School
01/06/2016		MoS OPTIMED IMPLEMENTATION – Towards a new Mediterranean Corridor: from South-Eastern to North-Western ports
01/06/2016		UPFI Multi-Site Regeneration Project in Jericho
01/06/2016	LC	Elaboration and implementation of a demand-driven toolbox for youth-orientated, innovative labour market services in the MENA region – "Toolbox Project" (TP)
16/02/2016		MoS – Design and implementation of "Motorways of the Sea" services between the ports of Izmir (Turkey), the ports of Bari, Brindisi and Taranto (Italy) and the ports of La Goulette and Radès (Tunisia)
16/02/2016		Plastic Busters for a Mediterranean free from litter
16/02/2016	LC	SEMed Private Renewable Energy Framework
16/02/2016		Women's Right To Health

PROMOTER	PRIORITY AREA
The European Regional Development Fund	 <b>Water &amp; Environment</b>
La Caixa	 <b>Business Development</b>
The Agency for International Cooperation and Local Development in the Mediterranean (ACIM)	 <b>Business Development</b>
Escola Europea de Short Sea Shipping [European School of Short Sea Shipping]	 <b>Transport &amp; Urban Development</b>
Agadir Technical Unit (ATU)	 <b>Business Development</b>
Izmir Metropolitan Municipality (IMM)	 <b>Transport &amp; Urban Development</b>
Eastern Mediterranean International School Foundation (EMIS Foundation)	 <b>Higher Education &amp; Research</b>
Autonomous Region of Sardinia	 <b>Transport &amp; Urban Development</b>
Municipality of Jericho	 <b>Transport &amp; Urban Development</b>
German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ)	 <b>Business Development</b>
Turkish Chamber of Commerce in Italy	 <b>Transport &amp; Urban Development</b>
MED Solutions Network, University of Siena (Italy) (UN SDSN Mediterranean)	 <b>Water &amp; Environment</b>
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	 <b>Energy &amp; Climate Action</b>
WHO Collaborating Centre for Early Detection and Screening of Cancer (CPO)	 <b>Social &amp; Civil Affairs</b>
























## 2015

DATE OF LABELLING		NAME
27/11/2015	LC	UfM Energy University by Schneider Electric
27/11/2015		UNIDO Women's Economic Empowerment in the MENA Region
27/11/2015	LC	Economic Development through Inclusive and Local Empowerment (EDILE)
27/11/2015	LC	EUROMED Invest Promotion & Observatory (EMIPO)
24/05/2015		CEED Empowering Women in Business
24/05/2015		UPFI Development Project for Phase 3 of the Bouregreg Valley Development Plan
24/05/2015	LC	Femmes d'Avenir
31/03/2015		Med4Jobs – Regional Youth Employability Programme – Maharat

## 2014

04/12/2014		UPFI Sfax Taparura Project
04/12/2014	LC	Capacity-building Programme on Water Integrity in the Middle East and North Africa
04/12/2014	LC	High Opportunity for Mediterranean Executive Recruitment (HOMERe)
04/12/2014	LC	Med4Jobs – Réseau Entreprendre en Méditerranée
04/12/2014	LC	Méditerranée Nouvelle Chance
02/06/2014	LC	UPFI Imbaba Urban Upgrading Project
02/06/2014	LC	BlueGreen Med-CS Networking Civil Society in the Mediterranean through environment and water issues
02/06/2014	LC	Establishment of a Regional Platform for the Development of Culture and Creative Industries and Clusters in the Southern Mediterranean Countries
02/06/2014	LC	Promoting Mobile Financial Services in the Mediterranean Partner Countries
07/04/2014		Mediterranean Water Knowledge Platform (Med Water Knowledge)
07/04/2014	LC	Citizenship and equality education for school prevention of violence: Forming Responsible Citizens
07/04/2014	LC	MedReSCP: Post Rio+20 – Supporting the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns, in particular resource efficiency in the Mediterranean region
07/04/2014	LC	Tafila Wind Farm 117MW

PROMOTER	PRIORITY AREA
Schneider Electric Global (Schneider)	 Energy & Climate Action
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	 Social & Civil Affairs
ANIMA Investment Network (ANIMA Investment Network)	 Business Development
ANIMA Investment Network (ANIMA Investment Network)	 Business Development
CEED Global	 Social & Civil Affairs
Bouregreg Valley Development Agency (AAVB)	 Transport & Urban Development
Sciences Po Paris	 Social & Civil Affairs
Business Development Center (BDC)	 Business Development
Society for the Study and Development of the North Coast of the city of Sfax (SEACNVS)	 Transport & Urban Development
Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)	 Water & Environment
Mediterranean Network of Engineering Schools/Universities (RMEI)	 Higher Education & Research
Réseau Entreprendre International (REI)	 Business Development
Office of Economic Cooperation for the Mediterranean and the Middle East (OCEMO)	 Higher Education & Research
Governorate of Giza	 Transport & Urban Development
Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)	 Water & Environment
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	 Business Development
Bank al-Maghreb/Central Bank of Jordan (Bank al-Maghreb/Central Bank of Jordan)	 Business Development
Office International de l'Eau/Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau (OIEau/IME)	 Water & Environment
Ideaborn	 Social and Civil Affairs
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD/BERD)	 Water & Environment
Jordan Wind Project Company PSC (JWPC)	 Energy and Climate Action

## 2013

DATE OF LABELLING		NAME
03/10/2013	LC	Med4Jobs – Generation Entrepreneur
03/10/2013	LC	Integrated Programme for the Protection of Lake Bizerte against Pollution





## 2012

04/12/2012		Jordan National Railway Project
04/12/2012	LC	Euro-Mediterranean Development Center for MSMEs
04/12/2012	LC	Higher Education on Food Security & Rural Development
28/06/2012	LC	Skills for Success: Employability Skills for Women
28/06/2012	LC	Université Euro-Méditerranéenne de Fès/Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes
10/02/2012		Completion of the Central Section of the Trans-Maghreb Motorway Axis

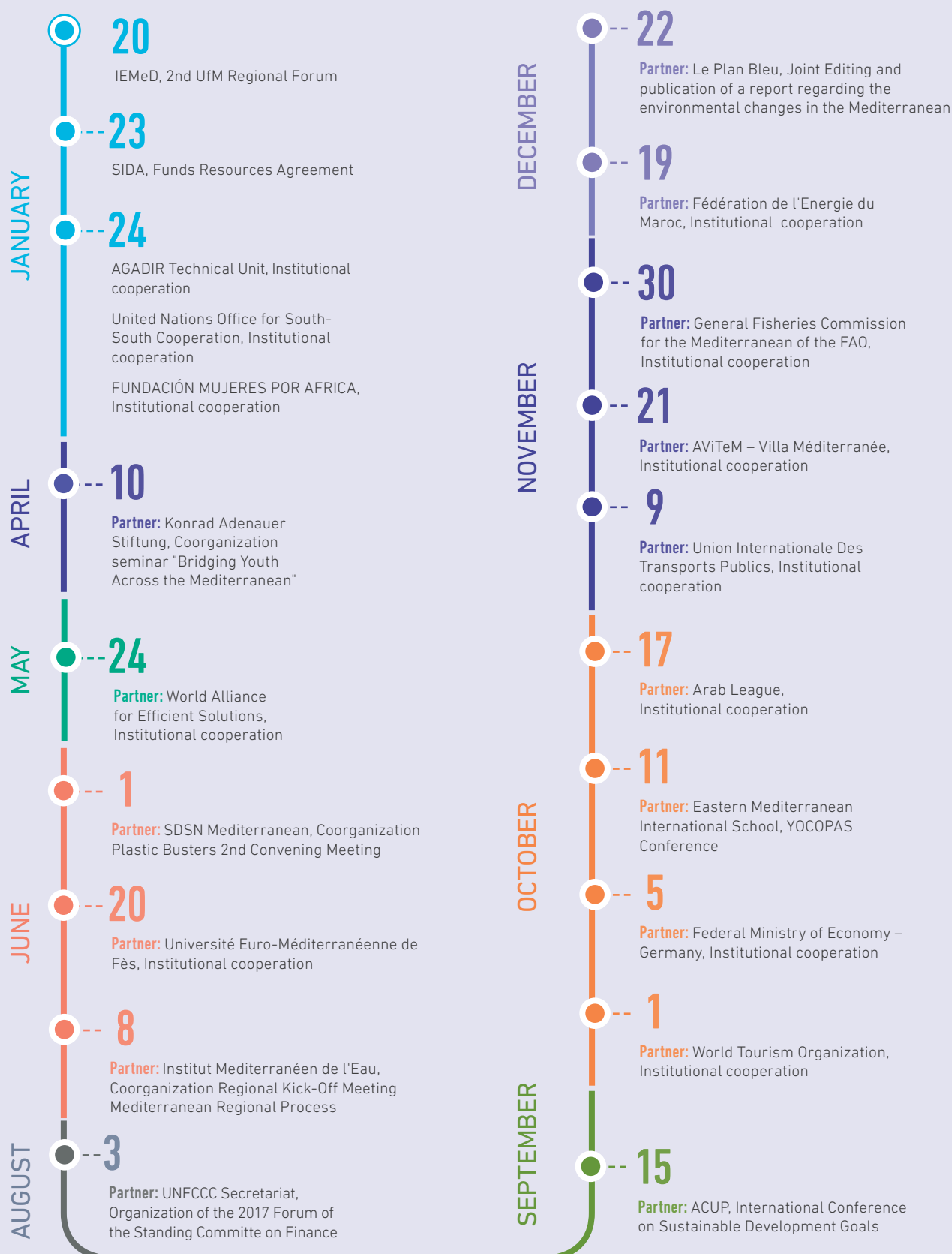
## 2011

16/12/2011	LC	Developing Women's Empowerment
18/11/2011	LC	LOGISMED Training Activities
17/11/2011		Three areas of EMUNI PhD Research Programmes
17/11/2011	LC	EMUNI Master Programmes
25/09/2011	LC	Young Women as Job Creators Phase I
15/09/2011		Master Study Programme in Risk Science
09/07/2011	LC	Overcoming Governance Challenges to the Mobilisation of Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector (Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector)
22/06/2011		Desalination Facility for the Gaza Strip Project



PROMOTER	PRIORITY AREA
Injaz Alarab	 Business Development
Government of Tunisia, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	 Water & Environment
Government of Jordan, Ministry of Transport	 Transport & Urban Development
Chamber of Commerce of Milan (Promos)	 Business Development
International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)	 Higher Education & Research
AMIDEAST	 Social and Civil Affairs
Government of Morocco, Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Professional Training (MESRCFC)	 Higher Education & Research
Technical Secretariat of GTMO 5+5 (CETMO)	 Transport & Urban Development
Fondation des Femmes de l'EuroMéditerranée (FFEM)	 Social and Civil Affairs
European Investment Bank (EIB/BEI)	 Transport & Urban Development
Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI)	 Higher Education & Research
Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI)	 Higher Education & Research
Association of Organisations of Mediterranean Businesswomen (AFAEMME)	 Social and Civil Affairs
Euro-Mediterranean Institute of Risk Science (IEMSR)	 Higher Education & Research
Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (GWP-Med/OECD)	 Water & Environment
Palestine	 Water & Environment

## Memoranda of Understanding signed during 2017



# Glossary of our abbreviations

## AAVB

Bouregreg Valley Development Agency  
(L'Agence pour l'Aménagement de la Vallée du Bouregreg)

## ACIM

Agency for International Cooperation and Local Development in the Mediterranean (Agence pour la Coopération Internationale & le développement local en Méditerranée)

## AECID

Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (La Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo)

## AFEMME

Association of Organisations of Mediterranean Businesswomen (Asociación de federaciones y asociaciones empresarias del Mediterráneo)

## AMU

Arab Maghreb Union

## ARLEM

Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly

## ASCAME

Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry

## AViTeM

Agency for Sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Territories (Agence des villes et territoires méditerranéens durables)

## BMCE

Banque Marocaine du Commerce Extérieur

## BDC

Business Development Center

## BMZ

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Das Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung)

## CIHEAM

International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes)

## CIREM

Foundation Centre for European Initiatives and Research in the Mediterranean (Fundació Centre D'Iniciatives I Recerques Europees A la Mediterrània)

## CMI

Center for Mediterranean Integration

## CNR

Italian National Research Council (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche)

## COP23

23rd Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC

## CPMR

Intermediterranean Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions

## CTF

Clean Technology Fund

## DG Mare

Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

## DIA/Med

Les Dialogues pour la Méditerranée de Barcelone

## DSG

Deputy Secretary General

## DUNEA

University of Thessaly, Dubrovnik Neretva Regional Development Agency

## EAB

Europe Arab Bank

## EBRD

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

## EDILE

Economic Development through Inclusive and Local Empowerment

## EEAS

European External Action Services

## EIB

European Investment Bank

## EKF

Denmark's Export Credit Agency (Danmarks Eksportkredit)

## EMIS

Eastern Mediterranean International School

## EMUNI

Euro-Mediterranean University (Slovenia)

## ENP

European Neighbourhood Policy

## ETF

European Training Foundation

## EU

European Union

## EuroMeSCo

Euro-Mediterranean Network of Think Tanks

## FAO

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

## FMO

Entrepreneurial Development Bank

## GDP

Gross Domestic Product

## GEF

Global Environment Facility

## GFCM

General Fisheries Commission in the Mediterranean

## GIZ

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

## GUNI

Global University Network for Innovation

## GWP-Med

Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean

## HER

Higher Education and Research

## IAI

Istituto Affari Internazionali

## IB

International Baccalaureate

## IDB

Islamic Development Bank

## IEMed

European Institute of the Mediterranean (El Instituto Europeo del Mediterráneo)

## IFI

International Financial Institution

## IFC

International Finance Corporation

## ILO

International Labour Organization

## IME

The Mediterranean Water Institute (Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau)

## IO

International Organisation

## IPEMED

Mediterranean World Economic Foresight Institute (L'Institut de Prospective Economique du Monde Méditerranéen)

## IRU

International Road Transport Forum

## ISPI

Istituto per gli studi di politica internazionale

**IUAV**

Venice University

**JWPC**

Jordan Wind Project Company PSC

**LAS**

League of Arab States

**LOGISMED**

Euro-Mediterranean Network of Logistics Platforms

**MCCE**

Moroccan Center for Civic Education

**MedNC**

Mediterranean New Chance

**MENA**

Middle East and North Africa

**MESRCFC**

Government of Morocco, Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Professional Training (Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur de la Recherche Scientifique et de la Formation des Cadres)

**MoU**

Memorandum of Understanding

**MYCN**

Mediterranean Youth Climate Network

**NEET**

Not in Education, Employment or Training

**OCEMO**

Office for Economic Cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Middle East (l'Office de Coopération Economique pour la Méditerranée et l'Orient)

**OECD**

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

**OFID**

OPEC Fund for International Development

**OSCE**

Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

**PA-UfM**

Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

**PAP/RAC**

Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre

**PPP**

Public-private partnership

**PRIMA**

Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Region

**REMTH**

Region of East Macedonia and Thrace

**RERA SD**

Public Institution for Coordination and Development of Split Dalmatia County

**SCF**

Standing Committee on Finance

**SEACNVS**

Society for the Study and Development of the North Coast of the city of Sfax (Société d'Etudes et d'Aménagements des Côtes Nord de la Ville de Sfax)

**SDG**

Sustainable Development Goal

**SDS**

Sustainable Development Strategy

**SIDA**

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

**SME**

Small and Medium Enterprise

**SOM**

Senior Official Meeting

**SPREF**

SEMed Private Renewable Energy Framework

**UEMF**

Euro-Med University of Fes (L'Université Euro-Méditerranéenne de Fès)

**UfM**

Union for the Mediterranean

**UfMS**

Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat

**UITP**

International Union of Public Transport (Union International des Transports Publics)

**UN**

United Nations

**UNAOC**

United Nations Alliance of Civilisations

**UNDP**

United Nations Development Programme

**UNEP/MAP**

United Nations Environment Programme/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

**UNIDO**

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

**UNOSSC**

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

**UN-SDSN**

UN Sustainable Development and Solution Network Mediterranean

**UNWTO**

World Tourism Organisation

**UPFI**

Urban Project Finance Initiative

**VET**

Vocational Education & Training

**WEF**

World Economic Forum

**WHO**

World Health Organization

**YOCOPAS**

Youth Organised Collaboration on Peace and Sustainability



*All images: © Union for the Mediterranean, except for:*

*Cover page image; p.12 "Generation Entrepreneur"©Injaz; p.14; p.16 Egyptian National council for women; p.17 Maya Morsi; p.18 Nathalie Loiseau; p.19 Noora Abdeen-Khalifeh; p.23 Laura Boldrini; p.25 "Generation Entrepreneur"©Injaz; p.29 Pau Relat; p.30 Krikor Asdrajian; p.32 © Club Photo de la Faculté des Sciences de Rabat; p.40 Karmennu Vella; p.42; p.43 ©European Commission; p.44 Graziano Delrio; p.48 Corina Cretu; p.49 Jan Vapaavuori; p.51 Dr. Joan Clos; p.54 Mohamed Idaomar; p.56-57 ©EU neighbors info center; p.57 Nicolas Hulot; p.60; p.61; p.62 Senén Florensa; p.64 Thomas Silberhorn; p.68; p.69*



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



[ufmsecretariat.org](http://ufmsecretariat.org)



Palau de Pedralbes | Pere Duran Farell, 11 | 08034 Barcelona, Spain  
Phone: 00 34 93 521 4100 | Fax: 00 34 93 521 4102