



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

The UfM since the adoption of the Roadmap: enhanced commitment to regional integration



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The “UfM Roadmap for Action” was adopted by the Foreign Ministers of the Union for the Mediterranean at the Second UfM Regional Forum in January 2017 in Barcelona. The Roadmap gives a new impetus to the development of a wide-reaching regional cooperation in the Mediterranean. **This third Regional Forum** coincides with the tenth anniversary of the UfM. As such, **it provides an opportune occasion to present this progress report on UfM achievements since the adoption of the Roadmap and set priorities for the coming years.**

The UfM since January 2017: The continuous acceleration of Secretariat activities

Objective 1

Enhancing Political Dialogue among Member States

The Roadmap called for *deepening and expanding this dialogue to improve the effectiveness of the Secretariat’s operational activities to address current challenges in the region.*

An ambitious Regional Agenda

Through its Ministerial and Senior Officials’ meetings, the UfM has emerged as a unique **platform for promoting regional dialogue** on key political, regional and stability-related issues.

Between January 2017 and October 2018:

4 ministerial meetings held

*Water, Valletta, April 2017
Sustainable Urban Development, Cairo, May 2017
Strengthening the role of women in society, Cairo, November 2017
Trade, Brussels, March 2018*

8 UfM Senior Officials’ Meetings

Barcelona - Brussels - Malta - Vienna

A New Era of Partnerships: from global goals to regional results

The year 2017 marked a significant **turning point** as the UfM Secretariat has **expanded the international scope of its activities through cooperation with dynamic global and regional** actors, namely and inter alia the League of Arab States (LAS), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Building on the UfM’s status of Observer to the United Nations General Assembly, cooperation with the UN has also gained momentum. **Partnerships and synergies for the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the Euro-Mediterranean region** have been established and strengthened with UN agencies, programs and entities, such as UN Women, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

The UfM has continued to enhance its relations with its Euro-Mediterranean partners, notably the Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM (PA-UfM), the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM), the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF), the economic, social and environmental councils, as well as private companies and academic networks in the Mediterranean region.

Signature of **20 new partnership agreements** with international and regional organisations, including LAS, OECD, GFCM-FAO, UNWTO,...

Agreement with SIDA

Multi-annual financial agreement signed on 23 January 2017

2017-2020

€ 6.5 million

Three priority areas:

- 1) Women Empowerment
- 2) Water, Environment and Blue Economy
- 3) Energy and Climate Action

Agreement with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Joint Declaration signed on 5 October 2017

2018-2020

Advisory project of € 2 million

Two priority areas:



Job creation for young people

Promotion of trade and regional integration

More than **30** events were organized between 2017 and 2018 with the networks of Euro-Mediterranean actors

Objective 2

Contribution of UfM Activities to Regional Stability and Human Development

The Roadmap called for “*strengthening the emphasis on human development, especially through the empowerment of youth and women*”.

Women in development: strengthening the role of women in Euro-Mediterranean societies

Equality of rights and opportunities between women and men is an essential contribution to inclusive development and regional stability. In line with the UfM fourth Ministerial Meeting on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society in November 2017 in Cairo, the UfM has continued to put gender equality at the core of its work. Main areas of activity include education and vocational training, health, access to the labor market and entrepreneurship, as well as women’s participation in the prevention of violent extremism and the consolidation of peace.

In 2017, the UfM Secretariat has launched, in cooperation with UNDP and UN Women, a Euro-Mediterranean network of experts for the prevention of violent extremism. The Secretariat has also supported expanding the regional scope of the project “Forming Responsible Citizens” to two new countries, Lebanon and Jordan, following its success in Morocco and Tunisia.

Forming Responsible Citizens aims to contribute to the prevention of violence through the implementation of a new methodology of civic education that emphasizes the promotion of gender equality.

1000 beneficiaries
+800 educators reached
4 guides for teachers
20 trainings and workshops

The Secretariat will highlight these results at its 4th **High-Level International Conference on Women Empowerment**, which will be held from 9 to 11 October 2018 in Lisbon.

Women4Mediterranean:
High-level International Conference
300 Participants
12 Panels
6 Side Events
+ Arts and Exhibitions, Youth, Publications, and Networking Spaces

Securing a better future for youth in the Mediterranean: training and employment

The Secretariat has diligently coordinated regional efforts in the context of its Mediterranean Employment Initiative (Med4Jobs). In this regard, it is worth mentioning that the first Stakeholders’ Conference of Med4Jobs is being held on the margin of the third Regional Forum. Several projects branching from this intersectoral initiative have received financial support for their launch and expansion over the past two years through UfM support.

The UfM has also worked towards enhanced networking in the field of higher education by launching the first regional dialogue on student mobility in May 2017.

Med4Jobs, between 2017 and 2018:

- Financial support and launch of **Generation Entrepreneur** (INJAZ Al-Arab)
- Labeling and launch of **Incorpora** (La Caixa Foundation)
- Organization of the Regional Conference “Creativity, Jobs and Local Economic Development in the Southern Mediterranean” within the framework of the project **Establishment of a Regional Platform for the Development of Culture and Creative Industries and Clusters in the Southern Mediterranean Countries** (UNIDO)
- Organization of the “Women Entrepreneurship and Investment Program” within the framework of the project **Promoting women empowerment for inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the MENA region** (UNIDO)
- Consolidation of the **HOMERe** and **MedNC** networks and preparation of next steps for the projects

Building a Euro-Mediterranean area at the forefront of research and innovation

Following the Ministerial Conference on “Strengthening Cooperation through Research and Innovation” in May 2017 in Valetta (Malta), the UfM Secretariat has stepped up its work on those fronts with special focus on themes such as the environment, climate change, water and blue economy. Complementarities have been established with PRIMA (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean region on food systems and water resources for sustainable and inclusive Mediterranean societies) and BLUEMED (Initiative for Research and Innovation in Support of the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean), as well as with the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies.

PRIMA 19 Euro-Mediterranean countries

In total, more than
€ 200 million
committed over
2018-2028

BLUEMED

The research consortium is composed of
partners from 9 countries

The UfM works to extend the initiative
to non-EU Mediterranean countries
2016-2020

Objective 3

Strengthening regional integration

The Roadmap called for “further regional economic integration through higher levels of direct investment, trade facilitation and better market access, as well as the development of infrastructure networks and connectivity”.

Towards enhancing regional flows of trade and investment

The **tenth UfM Trade Ministerial Conference was held in March 2018 in Brussels**. The meeting aimed to seek the means of promoting trade and investment. Ministers agreed to work on modernizing rules of origin to enhance trade flows in the region, and discussed the establishment of a regional working group on sanitary and phytosanitary cooperation. Ministers also expressed their wish to organize an UfM business forum in the future.

Towards a better connectivity of the Euro-Mediterranean area

Developing energy and transport infrastructure networks is of paramount importance for regional integration. In this regard, the UfM has focused on coordinating relevant efforts aiming to identify projects in the Mediterranean and mobilize necessary investments for better connectivity.

The first Energy and Climate Business Forum was organized in Cairo in October 2017. Following this forum, the UfM has launched an initiative for **the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Federation of energy-related business associations**.

The First Energy and Climate Business Forum brought together more than **150** high-level officials from UfM Member States, representatives of leading private companies and start-ups in the field of renewable energy, as well as international financial institutions and development banks.

3 main outcomes:

- 1) Call for creating a federation of energy-related enterprises in the Euro-Mediterranean region to encourage private sector initiatives in the sector.
- 2) Call for implementing a dialogue platform to explore the potential of PPPs in the UfM region to foster investment in the renewable energy sector.
- 3) Integrating of the networks of international companies working on the energy transition in order to reproduce and develop new innovative solutions

The action plans of the three UfM Energy Platforms endorsed by the [UfM Ministerial Declaration on Energy of December 2016](#) were launched in 2017.



UfM Regional Electricity Market platform



UfM Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy platform



In the field of transport, the Secretariat organized the “UfM Conference on Maritime Transport and Logistics” in May 2018 in Ismailia (Egypt). During the event, the TranslogMed project was launched, **with the aim to support regional integration in the transport and logistics sector**. The UfM also finalized a study during the same month on the formulation of a Euro-Mediterranean strategy for the connectivity of transport networks.

Translog Med

(European School for Short Sea Shipping)

Promote regional integration, enhance professional performance, and promote employment and gender equality in the transport and logistics sector

7 countries - € 1.5 million - 2017/2022

Consolidating the UfM Agenda for sustainable development

The UfM is at the forefront of efforts to combat the adverse effects of climate change in the Euro-Mediterranean area. In 2017, the Secretariat consolidated its **inclusive cross-sectoral approach to promoting sustainable development**, notably through ambitious agendas adopted following the Ministerial Conferences on Water and Sustainable Urban Development in April and May 2017.

With a view to preserving the Mediterranean Sea and capitalizing on its potential for the socio-economic growth and development of the region, the Secretariat held the first Euro-Mediterranean Stakeholders’ Conference on the Blue Economy in November 2017 in Naples (Italy). The Secretariat has also launched the “Plastic Busters” project, in cooperation with the University of Sienna and other partners, to prevent, reduce and eliminate marine pollution in the region with funding of € 5 million from the EU Interreg MED Program.

Stakeholders’ Conference on the Blue Economy

400 participants

12 workshops

125 B2B

+ Signature of a partnership agreement with **CGPM-FAO**

+ Launch of the Virtual Knowledge Center

Finally, the Secretariat completed the first study on the state of climate finance in the region, which was publicly presented in a side-event during the 23rd Conference of Parties (COP23) to the UNFCCC in November 2017 in Bonn (Germany). An update of the study will be presented at the next Conference of the Parties in Katowice (Poland) to contribute to the UNFCCC bi-annual assessment report on climate finance flows.

Progress in UfM flagship projects: national projects with regional impact

Since the adoption of the Roadmap, **several UfM flagship projects** have made significant progress. Among those projects are the EuroMed University of Fez (Morocco) and the desalination plant project in the Gaza Strip (Palestine).

The EuroMed University of Fez received, through the support of the Secretariat, a loan of €70 million from the European Investment Bank in 2017 for the construction of its new eco-campus.

The largest infrastructure project in the Gaza Strip also made significant progress: in March 2018, international donors committed €456 million to the project, which constitutes more than 80% of its total cost.

Key figures

EuroMed University of Fez

7000 students

from both shores of the Mediterranean and sub-Saharan Africa in 2024

650 highly qualified professors

researchers, technical and administrative staff

80% of students participating in university **exchanges** abroad

20% of students receiving partial or full **scholarships**

26ha of eco-campus

Desalination facility for the Gaza Strip

In the Gaza Strip



of the water is not drinkable

The construction of a **55 million** cubic meters per year desalination facility will help address the water deficit for

2 million Palestinians

Status of regional integration in the Mediterranean

To adequately assess the extent of progress achieved in regional integration, Ministers tasked the Secretariat to launch a study with specific performance indicators that will enable sound analysis of major trends and developments. Initial findings will be presented to UfM Senior Officials by the end of this year.

Objective 4

Consolidation of the UfM's capacity for action

In response to the rapid growth of UfM activities, Ministers called for "the development of the capacities of its Secretariat to implement concrete activities in accordance with its mandate".

A more operational mandate

The UfM extends support to regional projects through the concept of labelling, which is at the heart of the Secretariat's activities. Having endorsed 54 projects to date, UfM Senior Officials have adopted a proposal by the Secretariat on the reform of the UfM label in order to make it more clear, present, and effective for project promoters and donors alike.

A more efficient Secretariat

In July 2018, Senior Officials of the UfM approved the first major administrative reform package for the Secretariat since 2011. A code of conduct, an anti-corruption and anti-fraud policies were adopted during the meeting.

The UfM following the third Regional Forum: Work in progress

The UfM Secretariat has endeavoured to build stronger regional agendas in several strategic fields, such as transport, environment, energy and climate change, the blue economy, and industrial cooperation.

Moreover, the Secretariat is simultaneously exploring **new areas for action** in line with the mandate given by the January 2017 Roadmap, particularly in the following areas:

Migration and development

Ministers agreed that *“migration is an important part of their political dialogue under the UfM”*, and *“that, at the operational level, all UfM activities, methodologies and existing toolkits should be called on to contribute to these efforts”*. To this end, the UfM has appointed an ambassador in charge of this dossier in order to develop an action plan for the coming years.

Tourism

Ministers called on the Secretariat to *“use its role as a regional platform to coordinate and promote concrete initiatives and projects related to tourism in UfM activities”*. In June 2017, the Secretariat has appointed a special envoy to assess the impact of the UfM sectoral activities in tourism, and to evaluate the possibility of labelling projects in this sector. The first meeting of technical experts on tourism is currently under preparation.



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