

Horizon 2020 Regional Seminar Addressing Euro-Mediterranean Common Challenges through Research and Innovation Cooperation

22 January 2019
EuroMed University of Fes, Morocco

Background

Euro-Mediterranean cooperation is of strategic importance to both Northern and Southern Mediterranean countries, as well as to the European Union (EU) external and internal policies. Countries and people of the region face **common challenges, which increasingly request regional innovative solutions** and knowledge-based approaches that are context specific and include participatory methods.

Research and innovation (R&I) are key priorities of the mandate of the Union for the Mediterranean ([UfM](#)), which contributes to enhance regional cooperation and dialogue in order to promote human development, regional stability and integration in the Mediterranean. On [4 May 2017 in Valletta, Malta](#), the Ministers responsible for R&I in the 43 UfM Member States reaffirmed that **“strengthening Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in R&I contributes to fully tap the potential of economic growth and sustainable development of the Mediterranean”**.

Over the past years, researchers from both shores of the Mediterranean have worked together in collaborative projects, notably under EU programmes. **The EU Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development have been instrumental in pushing forward R&I cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region.** Close to 580 public and private entities from the South Mediterranean rim participated in the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7, 2007-2013).

Cooperation now continues under [Horizon 2020](#), the largest and most open R&I programme in the world. The programme has a coherent set of funding instruments and practical support along the entire innovation chain, from basic research to close-to-market actions. It is ‘Open to the World’, but also includes calls for proposals aimed at cooperation with specific countries and regions under a variety of thematic areas.

More than 100 entities from South Mediterranean partner countries are currently benefiting from Horizon 2020 funding. The EU and the UfM join efforts for increasing this participation and reinforcing the submission of projects by Euro-Mediterranean consortia in the 2019 calls for proposals.

Objectives

This regional seminar is jointly organized by the European Commission, the Union for the Mediterranean, the Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Kingdom of Morocco, and the EuroMed University of Fes. The seminar aims to:

- Present the EU strategy and instruments for international R&I cooperation and the UfM agenda, initiatives and projects in the fields of R&I;
- Update participants on the Euro-Mediterranean R&I cooperation policy, initiatives, priorities and instruments;
- Raise awareness about Horizon 2020 and explain its different elements, with a specific focus on the calls for proposals that are open for applications in 2019;
- Bring together multiple stakeholders concerned with R&I in the region: universities, research organisations, businesses, NGOs, policy-makers, practitioners, funding institutions;
- Give participants an opportunity to network, find project partners and shape new Euro-Mediterranean consortia (matchmaking session);
- Provide participants with guidance on how to apply for Horizon 2020;
- Strengthen regional cooperation.

Participants

This regional seminar will bring together over 100 representatives from academia, research institutes, industrial stakeholders, SMEs, NGOs and policy-makers from the 43 [UfM countries](#). Such diversity will allow for a multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral perspective which spans research and innovation. It will foster the consolidation or the establishment of thematic Euro-Mediterranean R&I consortia.

Registration

Registrations are open until 18 January 2019 or whenever the maximum number of the participants has been reached: <https://ufmsecretariat.org/horizon-2020-regional-seminar>

This is a two-stage registration process in order to ensure geographical, sectorial and institutional balance as well as junior-senior participation and gender balance. The organisers will screen registration requests before accepting them.

Participation will be limited to maximum 2 representatives per organisation, 5 representatives in case of universities and research centres.

Venue

The EuroMed University of Fes
Fès principale – Morocco
<http://www.ueuromed.org>

The EuroMed University of Fes was labelled by the 43 countries of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2012. A flagship project of the UfM, this regional centre of academic and scientific excellence educates a new generation of highly qualified young people with a unique Euro-Mediterranean vision.

Horizon 2020 Calls for Proposals targeting the EU-Med region in 2019

Topics that target EU-Med cooperation:

- LC-SFS-34-2019: **Food Systems Africa**
- SFS-35-2019: **Sustainable Intensification in agriculture in Africa**
- LC-SC3-EE-18-2019: **Bioclimatic approaches for improving energy performance in buildings in Africa and Europe**
- LC-GV-05-2019: **Urban mobility and sustainable electrification in large urban areas in developing and emerging economies**
- LC-CLA-05-2019: **Human dynamics of climate change**
- SU-GOVERNANCE-10-2019: **Drivers and contexts of violent extremism in the broader MENA region and the Balkans**

Other relevant topics:

- SC1-BHC-19-2019: **Implementation research for maternal and child health**
- SFS-31-2019: **ERANETs in agri-food - International coordination of research on infectious animal diseases**
- BG-07-2019: **The Future of Seas and Oceans Flagship Initiative - Observations and forecasting**
- SU-BES01-2019 **Human factors, and social, societal, and organisational aspects of border and external security**
- MIGRATION-01-2019: **Understanding migration mobility patterns: elaborating mid and long-term migration scenarios**
- MIGRATION-08-2019: **International protection of refugees in a comparative perspective**

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through Research and Innovation Cooperation**

Draft Agenda

**Tuesday, 22 January 2019
EuroMed University of Fes, Morocco**

8.30 - 9.00	Registration
9.00 - 9.30	Opening Session - Prof. Mostapha Bousmina, President of the EuroMed University of Fes - Mr. Saïd Amzazi, Minister of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Kingdom of Morocco - Mr. Nasser Kamel, Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean - Amb. Claudia Wiedey, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Morocco (tbc) - Ms. Maria Cristina Russo, Director for International Cooperation, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
9.30 - 10.30	Opportunities for Euro-Med collaborations under the 2019 calls of Horizon 2020 - Ms. Heba Gaber, Research and Innovation Regional Officer, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission <i>Q&A Session</i>
10.30 - 11:15	Capacity-building tools for participation under Horizon 2020 Presentations <i>Q&A Session</i>
11.15 - 11.45	Coffee Break
11.45 - 13.00	Lessons learnt and advice: Testimonies from Horizon 2020 project coordinators Presentations <i>Q&A Session</i>
13.00 – 14.00	Networking lunch
14.00 – 15.30	Thematic round table discussions for collaboration under Horizon 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food Systems Africa• Sustainable Intensification in agriculture in Africa• Bioclimatic approaches for improving energy performance in buildings in Africa and Europe• Urban mobility and sustainable electrification in large urban areas in developing and emerging economies• Migration mobility patterns and international protection of refugees• Human dynamics of climate change• Drivers and contexts of violent extremism in the broader Middle-East and North-Africa region
15.30 – 16.30	Coffee Break / Matchmaking Session
16:30 – 17:00	Plenary reports from the thematic round tables
17.00 – 17.30	Conclusions