



## UfM PROJECT CRITERIA

The general project criteria apply to all proposals submitted to the Secretariat, in all its fields of action. They guide the selection process and allow the Secretariat to select the proposals that are of a sufficient quality to be submitted to the SOM for possible labelling.

The general project criteria originate from the UfM Project Guidelines approved by the UfM Senior Officials on 8 April 2011 and are revised in accordance with the recommendations for the update of the labelling process and content, adopted by the Senior officials on 10 October 2018.

For these reasons, a balance needs to be found to avoid being too restrictive or too broad. The criteria should be defined in such a way as to apply to the diverse typology, structure, scope and nature for UfM projects.

Recognising the need to apply a variable approach, the justification and timing to award the label is to be kept flexible and decided case by case, with clear selection criteria.

Given the development of UfM sectoral regional platforms, it is recommended that projects considered for labelling first be discussed within the relevant regional sectoral platform, when it exists, as a way of raising interest of and receiving feedback and support from all Member States. This could also encourage non-beneficiary countries to join (where relevant) and, more generally, to promote complementarity and avoid duplication with other ongoing activities in the region.

When appropriate a stronger focus should be put on “flagship projects”, defined as projects that have a significant transformative impact, such as those promoting interconnections –whether physical or on knowledge projects- or projects that support specific regional policy agendas, and are either directly regional projects (i.e. directly involving several countries) or national projects with a regional impact. Such “flagship projects” would be expected to have a high further replication potential, helping the transmission of knowledge or innovative approaches across the region.

It is also recommended, when justified, to label “Initiatives” or “Programmes” (e.g. UPFI), which would by definition aim to promote a common regional approach and to cover as many countries as possible in the Region, even though individual projects may remain national. This would have the added benefit of allowing for a more aligned and systematic approach within a given sector across the region.

In all these cases, the UfM will privilege projects involving a minimum number of partner or beneficiary countries -ideally 4 - in order to promote regional cooperation and ensure a broader regional impact. It will also continue to strive to the extension of projects to further beneficiaries during a project life-cycle.

Additionally, sector-specific criteria might be developed to complement the general criteria to guide the intervention of the UfM in given sectors or on specific topics. Sector specific criteria are, in principle,



developed with the implication of recognized sector stakeholders and partners in the respective fields. The sector specific criteria are to remain in full compliance with the UfM general criteria and, prior to their application, are approved by the Project Committee for submission and final approval by the SOM.

## Eligibility

---

To be submitted to the Secretariat, projects must<sup>1</sup>:

- Contribute to the overall goal of enhancing cooperation, integration, peace and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region;
- Not jeopardise the legitimate interest of any member of the UfM;
- Comply with principles and rules of international law and development cooperation;
- Take account of the principle of variable geometry;

Furthermore, the Secretariat will only consider projects which:

- Fall within a UfM priority area identified by the Heads of State and Government, Euro-Mediterranean ministers or covered by the UfM Secretariat's Work Programme
- Are regional, sub-regional (involving ideally 4 countries), transnational or national (implemented in one country) in the framework of a regional initiative.
- Demonstrate meaningful impact for the population of the region and contribute to progress in the region
- Have a significant transformative regional impact, with high further replication potential ("flagship projects")

Considering that certain valuable activities, initiatives, networks deserve recognition and support but are not (or not yet) eligible for UfM labelling, the UfMS should provide such recognition or support in practice through association with its ongoing work, avoiding any confusion with the UfM label itself.

## Project Environment

---

Projects must:

- Demonstrate added value- and complementarity to existing efforts and initiatives and be coherent with local, national, and/or regional strategies.
- Include effective community engagement and stakeholders' consultations and adequate participatory processes.
- Ensure partnership and synergies with relevant organisations and institutions working in related and associated programs, project or initiatives.
- Demonstrate full commitment from participating countries (in this respect, a letter of endorsement of the project from the lead administration – sector ministry(ies), regional council,

---

<sup>1</sup> As II. Project Criteria of UfM Project Guidelines



mayor... - of each participating country is to be submitted by the project promoter prior to the appraisal meeting of the Secretariat's Project Committee).

### Technical

---

Projects must:

- Provide required documentation with sufficient level of description and analysis
- Propose a clear and sound working methodology
- Include a realistic timeframe and calendar for implementation

### Institutional

---

Project promoters must:

- Demonstrate appropriate records and experience in the fields and on the themes covered by the project.
- Demonstrate financial management capabilities, as well as high-level commitment to the project
- Demonstrate project managerial and monitoring capacities
- Dedicate the adequate personnel to the project implementation

### Financing

---

Project proposals must:

- Be in line with the self-financing requirements of the UfM, as defined in the project manual  
Include an appropriate project budget (total cost and breakdown of expenses) and an initial funding plan.

The current models of “upstream” funding for projects through the definition of structured bilateral partnerships between the UfMS and cooperation agencies for a concrete theme and time period will be actively pursued.

### Obligations of the promoter

---

For all proposals receiving the UfM label, the promoter(s) has to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the UfM Secretariat, detailing the respective roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the project, will need to report on project progress, display the UfM logo in all documentation and communication on the project and ensure coordination with the UfMS and UfM Members to properly highlight projects' significant milestones.