



UfM Regional Dialogue on "Shared views on key issues in the Mediterranean"

22-23 May 2019

Pedralbes Palace in Barcelona

Presentation

The Union for the Mediterranean and its partners, the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will meet with representatives of civil society on 22 and 23 May 2019 at the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean to discuss current challenges and priorities in the Mediterranean region.

The UfM and its partners are pleased to invite civil society organisations, platforms and networks and non-state actors to jointly propose recommendations and scenarios to strengthen Euro-Mediterranean cooperation on key issues in the region. The agenda will include the following themes:

- **economy**
- **energy**
- **environment and sustainable development**
- **employment and education**
- **women and girls empowerment** (transversal theme)

Context

The Euro-Mediterranean region faces many challenges but it also has many strengths, for example the region's youth, which comprises 60% of the population, with a potential increase of more than 18% by 2020. Youth is one of the most important assets for stability and development in the region. It plays an important role alongside key stakeholders such as international organizations, regional and local authorities, donors, civil society and the private sector in boosting growth and societal well-being and reducing poverty.

The UfM Secretariat collaborates with youth-led platforms, networks and organisations and civil society organisations in its efforts to promote regional cooperation in the priority areas of the Euro-Mediterranean. The work carried out in all of the UfM's sectoral platforms – e.g. on climate, environment and employment- also strives to ensure wide participation of civil society and non-state actors, especially young people, in debates and consultations between counties.

The meeting will focus on inclusive and sustainable development, a key factor in addressing the root causes of the current challenges the region faces.



Objectives

The main objective of this Dialogue is **to gather the valuable insights of youth representatives, civil society and non-state actors on current issues in the Mediterranean**. These exchanges can contribute to the analysis of achievements and related challenges and the role different stakeholders (youth organizations, CSOs, institutions and international/regional agencies, ...) play in promoting youth participation and opportunities to develop new projects and initiatives.

On the eve of the Summit of the Two Shores¹, these conclusions will be presented as recommendations and project proposals addressed to the 100 stakeholders who will meet on 11 June in Tunis to prepare for the Summit. The regional dialogue will thus contribute to the Summit of the Two Shores' debates by putting forward the views of youth and civil society in UfM countries on selected themes for the Summit of Heads of State.

Structure

The event will kick off with a presentation of the meeting and its objectives and will be followed by thematic working group sessions presided by a moderator. A more detailed programme will be provided at a later stage. The second day will be dedicated to the organisation of a plenary session summarizing the conclusions from the group discussions. To finalize, recommendations and proposals will be sent to the 100 stakeholders in Tunis constituting the Call of 100 (l'Appel des 100).

Participants

100 young people and representatives of civil society and non-state actors from the 43 member countries of the UfM, of which 30 will be part of the group of 100 stakeholders.

The participants must be representatives of the Euro-Mediterranean region, working in fields related to the abovementioned themes. They will be selected by an ad hoc committee composed of representatives of the UfM Secretariat and Partner Organisations.

Places and dates: The regional dialogue will be held on 22-02 May 2019 in Barcelona, Pedralbes Palace - UfM Secretariat.

¹ Initiative of the French Republic to strengthen ties between the two shores of the Mediterranean, a "Summit of the two shores" will be organized in June 2019 in Marseille, bringing the 5 + 5 countries together (Portugal Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya). This Summit will focus on environment, energy, youth, education, culture and economy.