

Youth



Euro-Mediterranean Youth Forum "Shaping The Digital Future" (Portugal)

Never before has the world been home to so many young people. At 1.8 billion, this generation represents an **unprecedented potential** for global economic and social progress.

With over 60% of its population under the age of 30, the Euro-Mediterranean is one of the youngest regions in the world. The UfM has therefore placed youth at the heart of its actions, focusing on building a positive agenda for youth in the Mediterranean and engaging young people as full partners in its activities.



The next generation leading the way on climate change

Young people worldwide are the first to demand urgent action be taken against climate change. Therefore, in 2016, the UfM Secretariat supported the creation of the **Mediterranean Youth Climate Network** (MYCN), composed of seven youth associations.

In 2018, the UfM Secretariat hosted the second MYCN General Assembly during the UfM Climate Week, and invited it to participate as an observer in its Climate

Change Expert Group, alongside government representatives, international financial institutions, private sector actors and international organisations.

Furthermore, the UfM Secretariat co-organises every year a side-event with the MYCN during the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. During the COP24, the event, entitled **Tapping the Potential of Mediterranean Youth in Climate Action**, provided the opportunity to raise the voice of the younger generations in the global political agenda, as well as to enlarge the network to other potential members. Those contacts will be amplified in 2019, especially in view of the Second Mediterranean Youth Climate Forum.

"Youth is already at the forefront of climate action. With their boundless energy and desire to take action, many young people want to become an even stronger vehicle for societal change."

Hajar Khamlichi, *President of MYCN*



Youth and women: protagonists of peaceful societies

Until recently, violent extremism has been evaluated primarily in terms of security. However, evidence shows that **successful responses require that political, social and economic drivers be addressed**. Initiatives to tackle the causes of violent extremism are flourishing across the Mediterranean, with many players turning to education as a tool for shaping lasting change.

In line with the UN agendas involving youth and women in peace and security, the UfM has been working with several NGOs to enhance the role of young people and women in preventing violence and violent extremism (PVE), organising two seminars on this topic in 2018.

The first seminar, held with the Observatory to Prevent Extremist Violence (OPEV) and UNDP, aimed to open a dialogue between civil society organisations, academia, think tanks and regional institutions to develop action plans on PVE in the region. The second one was a two-day regional seminar to present the results of the labelled project **Forming Responsible Citizens** (FRC), which empowers secondary teachers to provide their students with civic education, promoting dialogue as an alternative to violence. Promoted since 2015 by Ideaborn, a Spain-based organisation, FRC was successfully implemented in Tunisia and Morocco, and launched in Jordan and Lebanon.

The seminar was the occasion to launch the Global Citizenship Education Fund and Platform, developed by Ideaborn and its partners to support education as a vehicle for common understanding in the region.



Young mediterraneans in action

The UfM and Tarragona City Council jointly organised the **1st UfM Youth Forum for the Mediterranean** as part of the XVIII Mediterranean Games in July 2018. The forum aimed to foster **intercultural dialogue** and cooperation among youth organisations, thus creating a space for project-building.

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Source: World Bank

OUR WORLD IS HOME TO **1.8 BILLION** YOUNG PEOPLE

THIS GENERATION REPRESENTS AN **UNPRECEDENTED** POTENTIAL FOR **GLOBAL ECONOMIC & SOCIAL PROGRESS**

It brought together representatives from youth-led organisations, platforms and networks from 20 countries to share their best practices and innovative ideas, with a view to developing cooperation projects that accelerate progress on regional priorities and the implementation of the SDGs.

"The Youth Forum for the Mediterranean is an incredibly relevant platform [...]. What motivates me is that it was an occasion to plan ahead concrete actions on the ground, that will eventually act as multipliers of change within our local communities."

Federica Giordano, *representative of Forum Nazionale dei Giovani (Italy)*

ALSO ON THE AGENDA...

- Euro-Mediterranean Youth Forum: *Shaping the Digital Future*, in partnership with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- DIA-Med, a UfM simulation programme in partnership with secondary schools
- Preparations to establish the 1st Regional Policy Dialogue on Youth

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