In partnership with the Italian National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics (OGS), EMUNI enlarged its educational offering by co-organising a summer school on blue growth with the participation of students and young researchers from 18 nationalities. EMUNI also contributed to advancing, on a regional level, discussions on how to better integrate Euro-Mediterranean issues into existing study programmes through the new Erasmus+ Jean Monnet “Knowledge Hub in the Euro-Mediterranean Region” (MED-HUB) project.

Leaving no one behind

In 2018, an average of one in four young Southern Mediterranean people were not in employment, education or training (NEET), while youth unemployment rates across the Euro-Mediterranean region ranged from 20% to 35%. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of job positions are not filled due to a lack of suitable profiles.

The Mediterranean New Chance Network (MedNC), endorsed by the UfM’s 43 member states, was launched in 2018. It has worked with over 130 universities in 33 different countries allowing it to gather unique expertise.

The UfM region includes over 30 million university students and, by 2030, higher education enrolment rates are expected to rise to 40%. This “youth bulge” is dramatically changing the educational landscape, yet the situation in the region means that young people’s ambitions often go unfilled, despite being the most educated southern Mediterranean generation ever.

One of the reasons for high levels of youth unemployment, particularly amongst university graduates, is a persistent gap between the skills acquired in the education system and the requirements of the labour market. Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training (VET) are therefore key priorities in the Mediterranean region, playing a key role in the UfM agenda.

Connecting the Mediterranean with the global agenda

From the Bologna Policy Forum, which the UfM participated in this year for the first time, to UNESCO’s 1st Partners’ Forum, where both institutions agreed to collaborate in the development of a regional Arab network for the recognition of higher education diplomas and certificates, the UfM Secretariat is committed to bringing the Mediterranean Agenda onto the international scene.

In 2018, the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi) and the UfM established a three-year framework of cooperation in support of both institutions’ mission and objectives. Under this partnership, the UfM Secretariat and GUNi co-organised the first meeting of the Group of Experts on Sustainable Development Goals and Higher Education (SDGs), which aims to help higher education institutions, students and policymakers implement the SDGs, in synergy with the efforts undertaken within the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development.

Also on the agenda...

- 5+5 Dialogue on Higher Education, Research and Innovation
- Eastern Mediterranean International School
- High Opportunity for Mediterranean Executives Recruitment (HOMERe)

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