



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

# 10

**YEARS**  
of building  
regional  
cooperation  
together

Annual Report 2018



The UfM Secretariat  
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Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

## Annual Report 2018

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**20** MINISTERIAL MEETINGS HELD UNDER THE UfM FRAMEWORK



Union for the Mediterranean  
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**15+** REGIONAL DIALOGUE PLATFORMS COVERING KEY SECTORS FROM WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE & URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AMONG OTHERS...

**400+** EVENTS & CONFERENCES GATHERING **30.000+** PARTICIPANTS FROM ALL OVER THE REGION

A STRONG NETWORK OF

**250+** PARTNERS



FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS SIGNED FOR **€12** MILLION +

WITH AN INDIRECT IMPACT ON **100** MILLION +

**15 MILLION +** DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

**70%+** OF THE PROJECTS BENEFIT MORE THAN 4 COUNTRIES IN THE REGION

**50+** LABELLED PROJECTS WORTH **€5.6 BILLION**

**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT 54%**

**46% SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Social & Civil Affairs **17%**

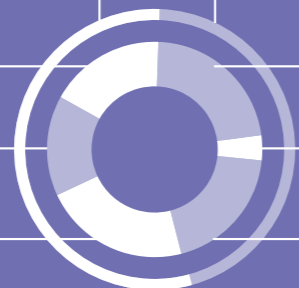
Transport & Urban Development **22%**

Higher Education & Research **15%**

Energy & Climate Action **4%**

Business Development & Employment **22%**

Water, Environment & Blue Economy **19%**



**PROMOTERS OF UfM LABELLED PROJECTS**

Financial Institutions **9%**

Private Sector **11%**

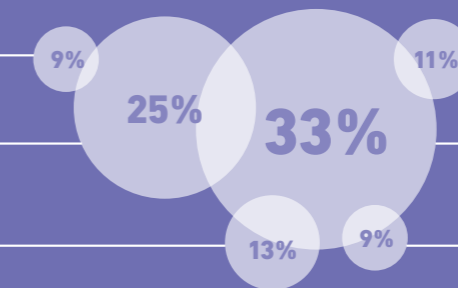
National Administrations **25%**

**33%**

NGOs **9%**

International Organisations **13%**

Higher Education & Research Institutions **9%**





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# Message from the Secretary General

## Nasser Kamel



This year's annual report is particularly special as it provides an overview of UfM activities during 2018; a year that marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Union for the Mediterranean. Indeed, ten years have passed since the 2008 Paris Declaration, which gave a new impetus to the 1995 Barcelona Process and further institutionalised the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, building on a shared vision of the region as one of peace and stability, while sending a message of hope to its people. Having been privileged to bear witness to the inception of the UfM during my tenure in Paris (2008-2012), I must say that seeing what the UfM has achieved today is both remarkable and inspiring. Such accomplishments would not have been possible without the pragmatic yet ambitious approach that the Co-Presidency and the Secretariat have maintained over the past few years. In this regard, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to my predecessor Ambassador Fathallah Sijlimassi for his assiduous efforts and devotion to Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

The UfM Secretariat has been actively engaged in coordinating the efforts of its Member States and relevant actors in the Euro-Mediterranean region through a collective, multi-stakeholder approach to promote regional cooperation and integration. Such efforts were undertaken in a volatile regional context against a backdrop of environmental degradation, elevated unemployment rates, socio-economic disparities, irregular migration, extremism, and an unprecedented refugee crisis, among other adversities. Despite those challenges, the UfM was able to endure and move forward with its mission towards building consensus and enhancing regional cooperation.

While several regional challenges had stalled cooperation in the Mediterranean, several accomplishments have been achieved by the UfM owing to the Secretariat's firm belief in the importance of building consensus among

Member States and tackling the root causes of the challenges that we face. Our endeavours to build ambitious regional agendas continue as UfM cooperation reached new milestones during 2018, particularly regarding the agendas for water and for women. Regional cooperation on trade and on civil protection has also been recently resumed under the umbrella of the UfM. Moreover, the UfM's action-oriented approach has enabled us to achieve concrete results in socioeconomic development, transport, urban development, energy, climate action, water resource management and the environment. Such results continue to improve living conditions in a union of more than 800 million citizens.

While the developments highlighted in this report inspire optimism, we remain far from achieving the mission of the UfM in a way that corresponds to our ambitions. The path remains long and arduous and requires further diligent efforts, as well as a renewed commitment to cooperation and multilateralism. Unilateralism is no longer feasible in a globalised world that has grown more connected than ever, and a regional setting that is becoming increasingly characterised by cross-border challenges that far exceed the capacity of unilateral efforts.

Since I assumed office in July 2018, I have come to realise that the support that the UfM receives from its Co-Presidency and Member States highlights a continuation of a shared vision towards genuine and constructive cooperation in our region and inspires hope in what is yet to come. Only together can we reach our goals of a peaceful, stable and prosperous Mediterranean.

Nasser Kamel



The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is an inter-governmental Euro-Mediterranean organisation that brings together, on equal footing, the 28 countries of the European Union and 15 countries of the South and East Mediterranean. Its aim is to strengthen cooperation and dialogue across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

**Putting peace, stability and shared prosperity first - together**

As a direct continuation of the Barcelona Process, the launch of the UfM in July 2008 was a true reflection of its 43 member states' shared political commitment to the enhancement of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

Established in March 2010 in Barcelona, the UfM Secretariat is the first permanent structure dedicated to the implementation of this partnership. Ever since its creation, the institution has continuously worked to promote political dialogue between its member states, in view of creating an area of peace, security, stability and shared prosperity that addresses the legitimate aspirations of Euro-Mediterranean citizens.

**New roadmap, same focus on action and results**

The last few years have marked a turning point for the institution, exemplified by the adoption of a new roadmap for action by the member states' Ministers of Foreign Affairs at the Second UfM Regional Forum in January 2017.

The new roadmap, entitled **The Union for the Mediterranean: an action-driven organisation with a common ambition**, underlines the key role of the UfM as a unique framework for political dialogue and regional cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean area, and sets

**A CO-OWNED REGIONAL COOPERATION FRAMEWORK**

**43 MEMBER STATES<sup>1</sup>**

WITH A **CO-PRESIDENCY** REPRESENTING **NORTH AND SOUTH ON EQUAL FOOTING**

**A SECRETARY GENERAL FROM THE SOUTH:** Nasser Kamel, Egypt

**HEADQUARTERS LOCATED IN THE NORTH:** Barcelona, Spain

<sup>1</sup> Syria has suspended its membership to the UfM on December 1, 2011.

it to work on the socio-economic causes of the region's growing challenges, while capitalising on its immense untapped potential, particularly its youth. The roadmap has mandated the UfM Secretariat to work on two new, cross-cutting areas in the region: migration and tourism.



**Action-oriented, results-focused: a methodology on the front foot**

Composed of three dimensions, the UfM working methodology aims to create effective links between political decisions taken by member states, and their translation into region-wide projects of cooperation, which in return support the definition of relevant policies.

1. **Political fora:** defining the UfM's priorities through the adoption of common ministerial agendas on key strategic areas for the region.

2. **Platforms of policy dialogue:** facilitating exchange on ministerial mandates; better understanding stakeholders' needs; sharing experiences and identifying best practices; promoting concrete cooperation projects.

This dimension takes a multi-stakeholder approach, involving governmental institutions, regional and international organisations, local authorities, civil society organisations, universities and think tanks, as well as the private sector and financial institutions.

3. **Projects with regional impact:** identifying and supporting regional cooperation projects that have a tangible impact on the ground and contribute to the goals set by UfM Ministers in each area of action.

**WHAT IS THE UfM LABEL AND HOW DOES IT HELP REGIONAL PROJECTS?**

Representing a unanimous endorsement from its member states, the UfM Secretariat awards a label to regional projects that contribute to the overall goals of stability, development and regional integration, and offer meaningful impact for the citizens of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Through this label, the UfM Secretariat:

- Provides a strong political commitment from 43 countries, which gives recognition and visibility to projects
- Allows deadlocks to be overcome through the mobilisation of governments and stakeholders towards a project's success
- Facilitates access to finance through a dynamic network of donors and financial institutions
- Transforms project ideas into reality with the support of internal experts and technical partners

**A region committed to its role on the world stage: contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals**

The Euro-Mediterranean region is at the forefront of many pressing **global challenges** such as migration, terrorism, climate change, water scarcity and youth unemployment. In this context, the UfM aims to promote **common regional responses** in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, contributing at a regional level to the implementation of this global agenda.

The UfM Secretariat is determined to continue **joining forces with the international community**, and particularly with the UN System, to address global challenges and achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** in the Euro-Mediterranean region, through tangible and concrete activities and initiatives.

In this sense, since 2017 the UfM Secretariat has specifically referred to the UN SDGs as indicators for the impacts of its activities.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Look out for the SDG icons throughout this report to learn about the UfM contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



# Enhancing political dialogue across the Euro-Mediterranean region



UfM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)

The Euro-Mediterranean region has faced unprecedented challenges to its stability and security over the last few decades. One of the primary goals of the UfM is to strengthen political dialogue amongst its 43 member states with a view to building peace, security and stability in the region.

### Renewing political commitments: the 3<sup>rd</sup> UfM Regional Forum

Since 2015, UfM Ministers of Foreign Affairs have convened for the UfM Regional Forum: a yearly informal meeting that assesses achievements and opportunities to give political guidance on a common Euro-Mediterranean agenda.

Commemorating the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean which gave birth to the organisation, the third UfM Regional Forum was held under the title **10 Years: Building Together the Future of Regional Cooperation**. It was chaired by the UfM Co-Presidency, assumed by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, and the

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Ayman Safadi. It was hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain, Josep Borrell, and the Secretary General of the UfM, Nasser Kamel.

The forum provided ministers with the opportunity to assess the state of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation ten years after the UfM's launch, as well as to highlight where the organisation needs to redouble its efforts to meet current and future challenges. Ministers took stock of the state of implementation of the UfM roadmap and committed to building impetus behind the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.



To learn more about the activities of the UfM since the adoption of the Roadmap, visit [ufmsecretariat.org/info-center/publications/](http://ufmsecretariat.org/info-center/publications/)

Extract from the conclusions of the UfM Co-Presidency at the III UfM Regional Forum  
 "A renewed commitment to regional cooperation and prosperity"



"[...] We appreciated the UfM's active engagement in developing meaningful solutions in a large number of crucial areas, [...] which have concretely supported our joint efforts towards the overarching goal of creating an area of peace, security, stability and prosperity."

Read it here: [ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Conclusions-of-the-Co-Presidency.pdf](http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Conclusions-of-the-Co-Presidency.pdf)



### Partnerships for sustainable development

The UfM amplifies regional dialogue not only on a governmental level, but also by **strengthening cooperation between all institutions within the Euro-Mediterranean ecosystem**. These synergies are essential to consolidate and expand UfM activities in the region, as well as to work towards the shared goals of regional stability, integration and development.

On top of increasing interactions with its Euro-Mediterranean partners, the UfM Secretariat has also engaged with key actors on an international level to increase the visibility of the Euro-Mediterranean agenda and better connect regional actions with global goals.

In 2018, the UfM Secretariat **partnered with the World Bank's Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)**, the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**, the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, and the **Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**. Through these partnerships, the UfM aims to gather and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, as well as to develop joint actions in favour of sustainable development throughout the Euro-Mediterranean region.

## 10 YEARS, 10 STORIES

Commemorating the UfM's first decade

Ten years after the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean, the UfM launched a campaign to commemorate the milestones of the organisation's history and to highlight its major successes throughout the last decade.

From combatting plastic pollution in the Mediterranean to bridging the skills gap to drive employment, UfM initiatives and labelled projects address key challenges in the region through tangible and innovative solutions.

→ Discover the 10 stories on p. 24



Tackling the 731 tonnes of plastic thrown into the Mediterranean every day



A 320-hour programme to address the gender gap



Towards the biggest infrastructure project in Gaza



A 6,000-hectare eco-city for a more sustainable urban life



A second chance for 26,000 young people



14 schools working together for citizenship education



A 1,000-km journey to promote sustainable mobility



Internship mobility across 9 Mediterranean countries



From 62 to 12,000 empowered women: the multiplying effect of training programmes



Addressing the 62% increase in energy demand

# Women's empowerment



Women Entrepreneurship & Investment Programme - WEIP (Spain)

All over the world, an unprecedented upsurge of movements has marked a historic turning point in the fight for **women's rights and equality**, and the Euro-Mediterranean region is no exception.

In support of this momentum, the UfM launched a **shared Euro-Mediterranean agenda** at the Ministerial Conference in Cairo (November, 2017). The agenda aims to increase women's leadership and political participation, enhance women's economic empowerment, combat all forms of violence against women and girls, and end gender stereotypes.

In 2018, the UfM Secretariat gathered key stakeholders from the region to outline the next steps for implementing these ambitious commitments, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

## 4<sup>th</sup> UfM Women Conference: building inclusive societies

In partnership with the Portuguese government, the UfM Secretariat organised the **4<sup>th</sup> UfM Women Conference**, one of today's major regional platforms for exchanging experiences on gender equality. With the attendance of the President of

**"We must do more to listen to what women and girls have to say, and then take action to address their experiences. We must highlight a bottom-up approach, which puts the individual and community at the centre of all our strategies. Let us find ways of bringing the women of our Mediterranean together."**

**Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca**, *President of Malta*

Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, the event brought together more than **450 participants from over 30 UfM countries** to discuss women's roles as change-makers and leaders in the region. More concretely, it examined the contributions of the media, the private sector and youth in overcoming cultural and social barriers towards more inclusive societies.

The need to further invest in sexual and reproductive health and to empower women in the fields of science and agriculture were highlighted during dedicated workshops. Meanwhile, a study on women's participation in rural societies was published during the conference, in partnership with CIHEAM.



## Empowering women for sustainable and inclusive growth

Labelled in 2015 with a budget of €4.5 million, the first phase of UNIDO's project, **Promoting Women's Empowerment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in the MENA Region**, finished this year and achieved successful results.

Two initial studies were carried out in seven Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries to support the **identification of areas for national policy reform** and, on this basis, determine priorities for each of the countries to help boost female entrepreneurship.

Through this innovative methodology, the project contributed to enhancing women's economic inclusion and harnessing the great potential of female entrepreneurs to create growth. The UfM Secretariat hosted a meeting in May 2018 to discuss the launch of a second phase of the project, with a special focus on women in agriculture and rural areas, and two new partners: UN Women and FAO.



## Ensuring healthy lives for all

The growing mortality rates from cervical and breast cancer in the 15 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries are a major concern.

The UfM partnered with the World Health Organization and the Centre for Epidemiology and Prevention of Cancer in Piedmont (Italy) to develop the **WoRTH: Women's Right to Health** project. It aims to improve cancer screening policies and introduce a new approach to cervical and breast cancer prevention into existing policies and services.

With a budget of €4.16 million over four years, WoRTH will **train over 300 professionals** and will **benefit more than 45,000 disadvantaged women** in Albania, Montenegro and Morocco.

## HELD TO THEIR WORD: KEEPING TRACK OF PROGRESS ON GENDER EQUALITY

The UfM Secretariat has been mandated to establish a regional mechanism to monitor progress on gender equality, aiming to provide recommendations to policy-makers and regional stakeholders on the gender gap. A proposal of methodology and indicators is now under preparation and will be discussed with UfM member states and stakeholders during the Regional Dialogue Platform meeting in July 2019.

EVERY YEAR IN THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, OVER **19,000** WOMEN ARE DIAGNOSED WITH **CERVICAL CANCER** AND **212,600** WITH **BREAST CANCER** WHILE **7,800 & 62,200** RESPECTIVELY SUCCUMB TO THE DISEASE

Source: World Health Organisation (WHO)

## EXPERTS' CORNER

- **Strengthening the Role of Women in Rural and Agricultural Areas**, in partnership with CIHEAM, focuses on the obstacles and opportunities of women's participation in rural areas.
- **Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment** provides an overview of main donors and key Euro-Mediterranean stakeholders' contributions towards gender equality and women's empowerment.

[ufmsecretariat.org/info-center/publications/](http://ufmsecretariat.org/info-center/publications/)

## ALSO ON THE AGENDA...

- Meeting of the Women of the Mediterranean (WOMED) project
- Women Entrepreneurs' Forum: Promoting Women Business Partnership in the Mediterranean, with UNIDO
- PA-UfM Committee on Women's Rights
- Roundtable on Behavioural Insights as a Tool for Fostering Women's Economic Empowerment in the Region, with UNDP

[ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/](http://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/)



# 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.

WITH OVER 60% OF ITS POPULATION UNDER THE AGE OF 30, THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN IS ONE OF THE **YOUNGEST REGIONS IN THE WORLD** 

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

 [ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/](http://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/)



# Employment



UfM-labelled project CEED Grow - Med4Jobs Initiative (Albania)

The Euro-Mediterranean region has **one of the highest unemployment rates in the world**, affecting mostly young people and women, making job creation a pressing priority for UfM countries. Inclusive, sustainable and decent employment for all has thus acquired a priority position in policymaking in the region, being indispensable for economic growth, social cohesion and the eradication of poverty.

In this context, the UfM aims to develop employment opportunities and promote inclusive growth in the Euro-Mediterranean region, addressing youth employability and women's socio-economic empowerment with a particular focus on the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

impact and its engagement in human and sustainable development efforts.

Promoters, partners and young beneficiaries from 10 UfM-labelled projects were given space to share their experiences, success stories and best practices. The testimonials presented by the young participants emphasised the role of Med4Jobs projects in **cultivating an entrepreneurial culture**, and the impact they had on developing the necessary skills for their beneficiaries.

IN 2017, YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT  
→ WAS 2 TO 3 TIMES  
HIGHER THAN ADULT  
UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE  
EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGION.

Source: World Bank



## Med4Jobs Stakeholders' Dialogue: youth at centre stage

During the **3<sup>rd</sup> UfM Regional Forum**, the UfM Secretariat held the first stakeholders' dialogue for its flagship initiative **Med4Jobs**, with the aim of evaluating progress achieved and the lessons learnt. It brought together over 50 participants to discuss the private sector's social

## THE MED4JOBS INITIATIVE

**Med4Jobs** is a flagship UfM initiative that aims to help increase the employability of young people and women, close the gap between labour demand and supply, and foster a culture of entrepreneurship and private sector development. It is a cross-sector initiative driven by the need for an integrated regional response to job creation.

Launched in 2013, Med4Jobs currently includes 13 labelled projects that **benefit over 100,000 young people and women**, in addition to supporting the development of MSMEs in the region.

The initiative benefits from the expertise of the Med4Jobs Advisory Board, whose members include the ILO, UNIDO, OECD, ETF, GIZ and UNCTAD. Regular meetings bring the advisory board together with other influential organisations and institutions working in employability, job creation and with SMEs in the region.

The board's objectives are to:

- Select good practices that address gaps in the region's labour markets for the Med4Jobs initiative, whilst providing feedback on project proposals submitted for UfM labelling.
- Contribute to the promotion of job creation and the development of SMEs by identifying potential synergies with other related programmes.
- Coordinate action across the range of available tools and programmes, and render it more effective.

Some key challenges across the Euro-Mediterranean region have been identified and will be addressed at the upcoming ministerial conference. These include the need to foster employment opportunities, reduce youth unemployment, address skills mismatches, tackle the challenge of people who are not in employment, education or training (NEETs) and low-skilled individuals, promote gender equality and decent work for all, as well as to develop social dialogue.

**“Med4Jobs is exactly the sort of initiative that we need, to give young people the opportunities they deserve and businesses the qualified staff they are looking for. This is Union for the Mediterranean at its best.”**

*Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission*

## EMPLOYMENT FOR INTEGRATION

A proposal to develop a campus that provides Vocational Education and Training (VET) programmes for Syrian refugees and local host communities was presented during a brainstorming meeting organised by the UfM Secretariat in 2018.

Over two and a half years, the campus would allow beneficiaries to receive EU-level accredited training, as well as internship placements that would help them access the labour market. During the meeting, government officials, UN agencies, and specialised educational and training entities agreed that critical success factors for this initiative would include: the active engagement of the private sector, the delivery of certifications and academic titles, and the creation of an environment where the psychological and social issues that keep refugees from better integration are addressed.



## Employment at the heart of plans for the region

The **UfM High-Level Working Group on Employment and Labour** met twice during 2018 to prepare for the 4<sup>th</sup> UfM Ministerial Conference on Employment and Labour, to be held on 2-3 April 2019 in Cascais (Portugal). The working group analysed the progress achieved by public authorities and social partners since the last ministerial conference in 2016, looking at action in the area of social dialogue, the social economy and the UfM-labelled project **YouMatch**, which matches labour supply and demand.

## ALSO ON THE AGENDA...

- 5<sup>th</sup> Med4Jobs Advisory Board meeting on the Private Sector and Technology
- YouMatch II Planning Workshop

[ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/](http://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/)

# Trade and investment



Creative Forum Ljubljana (Slovenia)

The Euro-Mediterranean region has one of the **lowest levels of regional integration in the world**. A study commissioned by the UfM Secretariat has shown that, out of all trade flows occurring in the region, **90%** are within the European Union, **9%** between the North and the South, and only **1%** among southern and eastern Mediterranean countries themselves.

In this sense, the UfM Secretariat continued in 2018 to encourage a stronger contribution from the private sector to regional integration efforts. It particularly aimed at enhancing trade and investment to promote inclusive growth, with a special focus on sustainability, socio-economic inclusion, and the empowerment of women and young people.



## Trade: key to unlocking economic integration

UfM member states gave a new impulse to economic integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region at the **10<sup>th</sup> UfM Trade Ministerial Conference**. Building on the enormous potential to be unlocked by reinforcing the UfM free trade area, ministers discussed how to

IN 2017, SMEs REPRESENTED MORE THAN **95%** OF REGISTERED FIRMS WORLDWIDE, ACCOUNTING FOR MORE THAN 50% OF JOBS AND CONTRIBUTING MORE THAN 35% OF GDP IN MANY EMERGING MARKETS.

Source: World Bank

facilitate investment across the region. They agreed to develop a set of **modernised rules of origin** that would be simpler, easier to use and more adapted to regional value chains than under the current convention. These

modernised rules would ease the activities of economic operators, especially those of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Action plans were also endorsed to help fight against piracy and counterfeiting and to assist sectoral cooperation in several areas, including: the automotive sector, textiles and clothing, environmental goods and services, and information and communication technology. Moreover, the ministers endorsed the new **Euromed Helpdesk**, developed jointly by the European Commission and the International Trade Centre, which will provide free, up-to-date information for businesses looking to export, helping to boost intra-Mediterranean trade.

**“The organisation of this ministerial meeting is a testament to the member states’ will to continue working towards translating their shared goals and common interests into concrete actions, in view of achieving economic growth and prosperity for the nations on both shores of the Mediterranean.”**

*Yarub Qudah, Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply (Jordan)*

## ASSESSING PROGRESS ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

In order to assess progress achieved in regional integration, UfM member states tasked the Secretariat with launching a study on the specific performance indicators of regional integration, that would allow for analysis of major trends and developments. An initial study defining these indicators was finalised in 2018, and will serve as a basis for the first progress report on regional integration, expected to be released in 2020.



## Creativity as a tool for regional cooperation

In 2018, the UfM Secretariat co-organised the **Creative Forum Ljubljana** with the Slovenian Government. The forum focused on the role of the creative sector in modern society, with particular emphasis on employment opportunities for youth in the Western Balkans and the Southern Mediterranean. The cultural and creative sector provides jobs for millions of people around the

world. In this context, the conference aimed to develop a **new network of cultural and creative industries** in the Euro-Mediterranean region that would enhance regional cooperation, job creation and economic growth.

The UfM-labelled project **Establishment of a regional platform for the Development of Cultural and Creative Industries and Clusters in the Southern Mediterranean**, promoted by UNIDO, was also highlighted during the event. Building on the success of its first phase, the project was extended in 2018 for 18 additional months, with €1.2 million provided by the European Commission.

## SUSTAINABLE TOURISM, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

The importance of tourism for the economies of the Euro-Mediterranean region, with its potential impacts on growth, job creation, infrastructure and cultural understanding, is evident. The consolidation and development of a sustainable tourism sector, cross-linked with other sectors of the economy, can significantly contribute to the sustainable development of the region.

With this in mind, the UfM Secretariat launched its first tourism-related activities in 2018. It held an initial brainstorming meeting, which focused on the digitalisation of SMEs in the sector, as well as on the need for innovative approaches to climate action and energy efficiency. This meeting served as an initial opportunity to exchange with experts and stakeholders towards building a more structured UfM regional dialogue on tourism-related issues.

*(See the section on Climate Action to learn more about UfM activities in the field of tourism)*

## ALSO ON THE AGENDA...

- UfM Experts Technical Meetings on Industrial Cooperation
- Steering Committee meetings of the IPEDM Co-Production Observatory
- UNWTO World Tourism Conference on “Tourism and Digital Transformation”
- UNOSSC 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Networking Forum...

[ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/](http://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/)



# Higher education



UfM-labelled project Eastern Mediterranean International School (Israel)

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 unfulfilled, 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.



## Building a new Euro-Mediterranean generation



The UfM-labelled **EuroMed University of Fes** (UEMF) in Morocco operates as a growing centre of excellence in higher education, research and innovation that aims to build a Mediterranean generation prepared to tackle the region’s needs. Recording a steady increase in



enrolments, the UEMF has now reached over a thousand students, **24% of which are scholarship recipients**. Meanwhile, international partnership agreements signed in 2018 with Belgian, French, German, Moroccan and Spanish higher education institutions promise new opportunities for academic exchanges.

In addition to existing programmes, the EuroMed University of Fes opened new courses for the 2018-2019 academic year, notably in business and financial law, design, and corporate and institutional communication, bringing the total number of accredited undergraduate and graduate programmes to more than 30. A new grant of over €13 million, awarded by the European Union in October 2018 through the European Investment Bank, will allow for the further building and equipping of the University’s unique eco-campus, expected to be completed by 2021 with a capacity of **7,000 students**.

On the other shore of the Mediterranean is the Slovenia-based **Euro-Mediterranean University** (EMUNI), a UfM-labelled project which works with over 130 universities in 33 different countries allowing it to gather unique expertise.

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.

**“Before joining MedNC, I lacked a practical side to my training. I had no self-confidence, I was afraid of entrepreneurship and I thought I would never succeed. I’ve learned a lot in the last few weeks. I will leave more enriched and better trained to enter the labour market.”**

Salma Mustapha, beneficiary of MedNC (Tunisia)



# 40%

OF EMPLOYERS IN THE MENA REGION  
**IDENTIFY SKILLS SHORTAGES AS A MAJOR CONSTRAINT TO THEIR BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND GROWTH** ←

Source: UNDP



## 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 eight Euro-Mediterranean countries to help NEETs find jobs. 2018 welcomed two new countries (Portugal and Lebanon) to the network, aiming to expand to at least two more in 2019.

Coordinated on a regional level by the *Institut européen de coopération et de développement* (IECD), the network promotes exchanges between different approaches and models, which are adapted to each country’s unique situation. More than **26,000 young people benefit every year from professional training** thanks to the 100 centres within the network. Furthermore, the French E2C network (*Ecole de la Deuxième Chance*) has received an investment of €12 million to create nine second chance schools by 2022, which will support an additional 6,000 young people.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

[ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/](http://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/)



# Research and innovation



PRIMA Info Day at the UfM Secretariat

Research and innovation are vital for inclusive human progress. Research offers policymakers scientific grounds for decisions based on data and hard facts. It **helps us to understand the world's problems**, and plays a key role in moving towards a sustainable future. Meanwhile, innovation helps bridge the gap between economic activities and respect for the environment, **unlocking the potential of sustainable growth**.

In view of its importance, the UfM enhances regional cooperation on research and innovation as a means of achieving its objectives of human and sustainable development, and as a way to push forward regional, scientific diplomacy.

root causes is therefore essential in providing balanced, coherent and long-term responses.

In that regard, the UfM Secretariat has supported the launch of a **Euro-Mediterranean Network of Research Institutes on Migration** (EuroMedMig), coordinated by the Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration at the Barcelona-based *Pompeu Fabra* University (UPF) in the framework of the 15<sup>th</sup> IMISCOE Annual Conference. Its core mission is to promote research, training, and knowledge transfer on the key challenges surrounding migration in the Mediterranean, and to facilitate collaboration among research institutions from 12 Euro-Mediterranean countries.

**“The creation of this network will contribute to promoting a coordinated approach by the entire region to increase the mobility of researchers and students and to establish common platforms for the collection and analysis of data.”**

**Ricard Zapata-Barrero**, *director of the Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration at the UPF (Spain)*



## Understanding the deep roots of migration



Movement of people has always been at the core of the Mediterranean. Recently however, regional crises, such as conflicts, environmental conditions, demographic changes, and economic and political transitions, have led to **an increase in forced migration**. Understanding its



**Migration has a strong agricultural and rural dimension**, especially in a region particularly affected by environmental change. A large proportion of migrants originate from rural areas, characterised by growing rates of poverty and unemployment. Therefore, investment and research into sustainable agriculture and rural development, climate change adaptation and resilient livelihoods are crucial components of any plan to address challenges related to migration.

The UfM Secretariat participated in the development of a new **Mediterranean Platform for Dialogue on the Drivers of Rural Migration**, promoted by the CIHEAM in cooperation with the FAO and the European University Institute. The platform aims to encourage political dialogue and the sharing of best practices, and was launched during the Forum on Agriculture, Rural Development and Migration in the Mediterranean held at the FAO headquarters in Rome. It gave an overview of the challenges and opportunities associated with rural migration in the Mediterranean, as well as the main policies and strategies designed to harness the potential of agriculture and rural mobility.

### EXPERTS' CORNER

The UfM Secretariat contributed to the bi-annual publication *MEDITERRA 2018*, jointly edited by AFD and CIHEAM, with the article [The Euro-Mediterranean Process and the Deep Roots of Migration](#).



## Embracing the blue economy: a natural fit in the Mediterranean



The blue economy promotes sustainable exploitation of the sea through clean technologies and renewable energy. In an era where oceans are aggressively polluted and their resources drained, **the blue economy seeks to promote economic growth, environmental protection and social inclusion**, while preserving and improving livelihoods for current and future generations.

In this regard, the **BLUEMED Initiative** offers a framework for a shared research and innovation agenda towards a healthy, productive and resilient Mediterranean Sea. Supported by the European Commission since 2014, the initiative was opened up to non-EU Mediterranean countries on a voluntary basis with the help of the UfM Secretariat.

In 2018, the UfM Secretariat hosted **BLUEMED Week**, a three-day event aiming to promote research on the blue economy through regional cooperation. The

gathering allowed for the updating of the BLUEMED Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) on the basis of the resulting national inputs, to establish shared regional priorities and start developing a joint action plan.

## Inviting the region's talent to take on food security and rural development

The UfM-labelled project **Higher Education on Food Security and Rural Development** harnesses the power of research and innovation as tools for rural development. The project targets CIHEAM students and alumni, developing their skills, research capabilities and awareness of career opportunities.

Within this, the UfM co-organised the **2<sup>nd</sup> Mediterranean Forum for PhD Students and Young Researchers** in Italy, together with CIHEAM, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI). The forum provided the opportunity to present success stories from the region's different countries to students and researchers, while strengthening dialogue and knowledge-sharing. For three days, participants from 27 countries had the opportunity to present their PhD theses, participate in dedicated training sessions, and exchange experiences on careers, employability and entrepreneurship.

ACCORDING TO A REGIONAL SURVEY, **THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DIFFICULTY IS IN COLLABORATING WITH FOREIGN SCIENTISTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN IS THE LACK OF COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMES**

Source: CIHEAM

### ALSO ON THE AGENDA...

- Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)
- Fisheries Science in the Mediterranean and Black Sea
- Widening Euro-Mediterranean participation in Horizon 2020

[ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/](http://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/)



# 10 YEARS, 10 STORIES



## TACKLING THE 731 TONNES OF PLASTIC THROWN INTO THE MEDITERRANEAN EVERY DAY

*"The Mediterranean region is one of the areas most impacted by marine litter and plastic pollution in the world",* explains Cristina Fossi, Professor of Ecology and Ecotoxicology at the University of Siena and leader of the UfM-labelled Plastic Busters project. Today, plastic represents 95% of the waste floating in the Mediterranean and lying on its beaches. Plastic Busters, which is promoted by the University of Siena and ISPRA, and funded by the EU Interreg Med Programme, monitors the effects of plastic waste on biodiversity in marine protected areas, and develops prevention and mitigation schemes. These include fishing for litter, removing derelict fishing gear and establishing recycling mechanisms. The project also aims to develop a Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, that includes recommendations for policymaking.

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## A 320-HOUR PROGRAMME TO ADDRESS THE GENDER GAP

Fatima Al Annan is one of the 99 Lebanese women who took part in Skills for Success, a 320-hour programme labelled by the UfM which aims to develop transferrable skills to prepare young women for entry-level jobs, while raising their confidence.

A 25-year-old biology student, Fatima explains that many people didn't believe that the effort was worth it, but that *"the teachers told us we could do anything"*. Fatima was offered two jobs after the programme, and now works in public administration.

And she's not the only one. Nearly 300 women in Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco have completed the Skills for Success programme, promoted by the non-profit AMIDEAST. Many have since found jobs, started internships, or returned to school.



## A 6,000-HECTARE ECO-CITY FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE URBAN LIFE

Mediterranean cities are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, making sustainable urban development in partnership with local stakeholders essential. *"Cities provide a unique insight and their involvement in policy-making on key urban matters [...] will benefit the lives of millions of people",* explains Corina Crețu, European Commissioner for Regional Policy.

The UfM is therefore working with cities to promote a new urban agenda. This includes the launch of the Bouregreg Valley Development project, which aims to revitalise the metropolitan area of Rabat-Salé-Témara in Morocco. This UfM-labelled project, which is part of the Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI), will create an eco-city that protects the environment of the valley, preserves heritage, and improves the living conditions of its 2 million inhabitants.

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## A SECOND CHANCE FOR 26,000 YOUNG PEOPLE

*"We try to help those who have left school without any qualifications to get a second chance and become more employable"* explains Begoña Gasch, founder of El Llindar, a school that's a founder-partner of the Spanish Association of Second Chance Schools, part of the UfM-labelled Mediterranean New Chance (MedNC) network. In 2018, MedNC was composed of 100 partner centres in eight countries from both shores of the Mediterranean, working towards the social and professional integration of 26,000 young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

→ p. 21



## 14 SCHOOLS WORKING TOGETHER FOR CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

*"It's all about turning schools into a tool [...] to teach young people how to live together",* points out Amara Ben Romdhane, Director of the Social Development & Empowerment Centre of Tunisia, a partner organisation of the UfM-labelled Forming Responsible Citizens project. Launched in 2015 by Ideaborn, a Spain-based NGO, the project includes 14 schools in Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and Lebanon, and aims to empower secondary teachers to impart civic education to their students, promoting respect for differences and dialogue as an alternative to violence.

→ p. 15



## A 1,000KM JOURNEY TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

The Mediterranean Youth Climate Network (MYCN), a union of seven youth-led climate associations from both shores of the Mediterranean, was created to give young people a platform to address climate change in the region. Last year, they co-organised with the Mediterranean Intelligence and Public Affairs Institute (MIPAI) the 2<sup>nd</sup> Light Us Sustainable Relay, in which a group of young people travelled by train and electric car from Monaco to Katowice – where the COP24 was held – to promote sustainable mobility and youth climate action.

→ p. 14



## INTERNSHIP MOBILITY ACROSS 9 MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

Through international internships across the Mediterranean, the High Opportunity for Mediterranean Executive Recruitment (HOMERe) project aims to ease students' transition into entry-level jobs by equipping them with the soft skills they often lack. *"This programme really helps young people to change their attitude towards work",* notes HOMERe participant Youssef Berdoul, *"it was also a key accelerator of my early career development"*. The project connects students with transnational companies, who will also consider employment opportunities for the intern in their country of origin after successful participation.



## FROM 62 TO 12,000 EMPOWERED WOMEN: THE MULTIPLYING EFFECT OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Lina Khalifeh is among 62 women from the southern Mediterranean who took part in the UfM-labelled Women of the Mediterranean: The Next Generation of Leaders (WOMED) project, which provides training programmes in leadership and gender equality to women aged between 25-35.

Following her participation in the programme, Lina, a black-belt in Taekwondo, founded She-Fighter, the first self-defence studio of its kind in the Middle East. Lina has so far empowered 12,000 women through martial arts training and has received many distinctions, including the United Nations Women in Business Award.



## ADDRESSING THE 62% INCREASE IN ENERGY DEMAND

The Mediterranean region is facing significant energy challenges, including a growing demand for energy, which will reach 62% by 2040, as well as a lack of adequate electricity infrastructure.

Regional cooperation is key to achieving a sustainable energy transition and addressing these challenges. The three UfM Energy Platforms aim to bring about such cooperation through the promotion of regional policy dialogue in fields such as the development of electricity and gas markets, and the promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency.

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## TOWARDS THE BIGGEST INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT IN GAZA

*"The construction of a desalination plant responds to a dire humanitarian need in Gaza, where 2 million Palestinians live in unacceptable environmental and health conditions",* highlights Mazen Ghunaim, Minister of Water of Palestine.

On 20 March 2018, international donors pledged €456 million (more than 80% of the total cost) to construct a desalination plant on the Gaza Strip. The plant, which is the first project labelled by the UfM, will supply drinking water to the inhabitants of the strip, who are experiencing a longstanding water shortage due to over 95% of the water being undrinkable. The project is promoted by the Government of Palestine, in partnership with the European Commission, the UfM, the EIB, the Islamic Development Bank and the World Bank.

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# Climate action



UfM Secretariat at COP24 (Poland)

The Mediterranean region is one of the world's climate change hotspots where, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the **limit of a rise in temperature of 1.5°C set by the Paris Agreement is already being exceeded**.

Shared Mediterranean climate action is therefore crucial. Urgent policies are needed to mitigate the consequences of climate change and consider adaptation options. Yet currently, the lack of adequate information is delaying the process.

Aware of this challenge, the UfM supports a dedicated regional effort to gather existing scientific knowledge and provide a better understanding of the risks posed.

This year, a sectorial report on the **impact of climate change on tourism** was presented. It aims to support Southern UfM member states in addressing how climate change impacts the competitiveness and sustainability of tourist destinations.

Another important outcome this year was the workshop on **Climate Finance Needs and Access**, which was moderated by a representative of the UNFCCC Finance, Technology and Capacity Building Programme. The exchanges with UfM member state representatives resulted in concrete feedback on the climate financing challenges and needs of the region, which will help to enhance access to financial mechanisms.

## The UfM at the COP24

The UfM Secretariat participated in the **24<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties** with the presentation of two studies and the organisation of three side events.

One of the side events provided the opportunity to present the first **preliminary assessment on the risks of climate change in the Mediterranean**. It revealed that the regional

increase in temperature will reach 2.2°C by 2040, possibly exceeding 3.8°C in some areas by 2100. The sea level has risen by approximately 3 mm a year over the past few decades. Freshwater resources are decreasing and demand for food is increasing, while crop, fish and livestock yields are in decline and ecosystems are increasingly impacted. With limited resources and social conflicts on the rise, **large-scale human migrations could be expected**.

The final assessment is being conducted in cooperation with the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) and will be available beginning of 2020.

Parallel to this, a second study commissioned by the UfM analysed **international public climate finance** and revealed that the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region received around USD 8.3 billion in climate financing in 2016. This represents 13% of worldwide funding for climate action, showing that there are significant opportunities for enhanced and coordinated regional action.

Aware of the importance of giving a voice and involving younger generations in the global agenda, a third side-event was organised with the Mediterranean Youth Climate Network, which showcased youth-led initiatives and their key role in climate action (more information on p.14).

## CONNECTING THE MEDITERRANEAN WITH THE GLOBAL AGENDA

The COP22 granted observer status to the UfM in 2016. Since then, the UfM Secretariat has actively promoted the Mediterranean agenda within the UNFCCC process and involved UNFCCC experts in its activities.

In this spirit, an MoU, signed with the UNFCCC Secretariat on the margins of the COP24, expressed the willingness of both institutions to continue working together towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement in the Mediterranean region.

The UfM Secretariat facilitated contact between the UNFCCC Secretariat and several Mediterranean countries regarding their potential participation in the "Needs-Based Approach to Climate Finance" project. This project aims to help participants develop approaches to mobilising support, in order to implement the programmes required to achieve the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) goals set by the Paris Agreement.

WITHOUT ADDITIONAL MITIGATION, **THE REGIONAL INCREASE IN TEMPERATURE WILL REACH 2.2°C BY 2040, POSSIBLY EXCEEDING 3.8°C IN SOME REGIONS BY 2100**<sup>1</sup>

Source: Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change Network (MedECC)

**"We know that people, companies, national and local authorities in the Mediterranean have plenty of solutions to offer for a new, cleaner economy. We want to help promote them, by developing connections between those looking for solutions and those offering them."**

**Bertrand Piccard**, Chairman of the Solar Impulse Foundation and partner of the UfM

## EXPERTS' CORNER

Four studies were published by the UfM in 2018, offering valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities for action related to climate change in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

- [Climate Finance Study](#)
- [Improving Access to Climate Finance Flows](#)
- [Climate Change Impact on the Tourism Sector in the Southern Mediterranean](#)
- [Risks Associated with Climate Change in the Mediterranean Region](#)

[ufmsecretariat.org/info-center/publications/](http://ufmsecretariat.org/info-center/publications/)

## ALSO ON THE AGENDA...

- The UfM Regional Climate Finance Committee
- The UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change
- The UfM and the OSCE for Climate Security
- The Engagement of Youth in Climate Action
- The UfM Role in the Cluster Med Climate Transparency Initiative

[ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/](http://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/)



## The UfM Climate Week: coming together for climate action



Every year, the **UfM Climate Week** gathers a wide range of actors, from government representatives to civil society and scientific experts, to discuss topics related to climate action in the Mediterranean region.





# Energy



UfM-labelled project Tafila Wind Farm (Jordan)

It is widely accepted that moving to a sustainable, low-carbon economy cannot be achieved by central governments alone. As a shared global responsibility, **all actors in society need to be involved**, from local authorities to the private sector and civil society.

Through its multi-stakeholder approach, the UfM facilitates a permanent dialogue between countries and non-governmental actors, providing a framework to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and regional objectives in a coordinated and coherent way.

In 2018, the UfM Secretariat continued to deepen regional dialogue through the UfM Energy Platforms. It also participated in public initiatives, working closely with the private sector and local authorities to enhance their involvement.



## Acting today for our world tomorrow

As the costs of wind and solar power drop, these two technologies are set to become the **cheapest means of electricity production in the coming years**. However, for

## UfM ENERGY PLATFORMS

### UfM REGIONAL ELECTRICITY MARKET PLATFORM

Objective: integrating energy systems & markets in the UfM region



### UfM RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLATFORM

Objective: promoting the deployment of renewable energy & energy efficiency measures

### UfM GAS PLATFORM

Objective: developing a Euro-Med gas market to promote security, transparency & predictability of both demand and supply

countries to make the most of these technologies, they need to attract private investment so that infrastructures can be enlarged.

The UfM **assessed the state of electricity markets**, renewable energy and energy efficiency **in 14 UfM member states** from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. This assessment looked into legal and institutional frameworks in the member states in order to **identify steps to achieve the objectives of the UfM Energy Platforms**. It also resulted in the development of a database that compiled, among other information, the details of more than 150 projects and initiatives in the fields of electricity, renewable energy and energy efficiency in the 14 countries concerned.

The UfM Secretariat will repeat the assessment every two years to measure the progress of the UfM Energy Platforms, along with the output of the regional stakeholders involved.



## Promoting grassroots action for global impact

The UfM supports local authorities (LAs) in their efforts towards renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate action. The UfM has therefore developed a strategy for local energy transition (**UfM Initiative for Energy Transition@Local**), which consists of developing a database of information, as well as capacity-building activities and peer-to-peer dialogues among LAs in the region.

Public-private partnership (PPP) models have proved **essential for the development of innovative actions in the sector**, and were the main issue tackled during the first peer-to-peer dialogue for local authorities organised by the UfM in 2018. All participants agreed on the need to increase technical assistance to LAs with regard to PPPs, as well as the need for central authorities to simplify procedures and to attract financing. Subsequently, a second peer-to-peer dialogue made evident the need to strengthen the bankability of LA projects through institutional arrangements and improvements in project models.

Alongside the dialogue, a five-day capacity-building programme for local energy transition was organised. It included three days of vocational training on efficiency in urban mobility, and a two-day technical study visit to six sustainable and demonstrative buildings in Istanbul.



## Stimulating private investments in renewable energy markets

Under the UfM-labelled project **SEMed Private Renewable Energy Framework** (SPREF), the European Bank

## “The UfM Energy Platforms bring the Mediterranean countries closer to a sustainable energy transition.”

**Dr. Admir Softic**, Assistant Minister for Energy at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) financed the construction and operation of the 120MW Khalladi Wind Farm near Tangier, Morocco.

The wind farm, which represents an investment of USD 170 million, will supply clean power at competitive prices to a number of large industrial companies, mainly operating in Morocco’s cement sector. The 370 GWh of **energy that the plant will produce and supply annually** is equivalent to the yearly average consumption of a city of 400,000 people, and **will contribute to the reduction of more than 144,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year**.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE WILL BE A **62%** INCREASE IN ENERGY DEMAND IN **SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES** —————> BY 2040

Source: Observatoire Méditerranéen de l’Energie (OME)

## ALSO ON THE AGENDA...

- Annual meeting of the UfM Energy Platforms
- Mitigation Enabling Energy Transition in the Mediterranean Region (MEETMED) project
- Joint UfM-EBRD Seminar
- UfM-MEDREG Joint Conference for the Presentation of the Mediterranean Energy Regulatory Outlook 2018
- Building a Regional Confederation of Energy Business Related Associations

[ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/](http://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/)

# Water



3<sup>rd</sup> Mediterranean Water Forum (Egypt)

The Mediterranean region is one of the most **water-scarce areas in the world**, with more than 180 million people living in circumstances where the water conditions are considered poor, and an additional 60 million facing water stress. Moreover, water quality is another factor posing major problems to water users and the sustainability of our ecosystems.

Developing initiatives to bolster water security in the Mediterranean through regional partnerships and sustainable cooperation mechanisms is needed to reverse this downward spiral. The adoption of **Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)** as a holistic approach is of **capital importance to achieve economic and social welfare**. The UfM is currently working on 23 sustainable development initiatives, 10 of which are specifically water related. Meanwhile, ministers from the UfM member states agreed in 2017 to develop a UfM Water Agenda to help countries implement sustainable and integrated water management policies.



## Towards the biggest infrastructure project in Gaza

The availability of fresh water in the **Gaza Strip**, one of the most densely populated areas on the planet, is among

the lowest in the world. Currently, over 95% of the water is undrinkable due to the over-pumping of a polluted coastal aquifer, the only source of freshwater in the region.

In March 2018, the European Commission and the Government of Palestine, in partnership with the UfM, hosted an international donor-pledging conference to consolidate political and financial support for the **construction of a large-scale desalination plant** and its associated water-supply infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. International donors pledged €456 million to this flagship UfM-labelled project (more than 80% of the total cost), which will make it possible to start Gaza's biggest ever infrastructure project.

This landmark operation – which will supply drinking water to 2 million Palestinians – consists of three integrated projects: the construction of a 55 million-m<sup>3</sup> desalination seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO) plant, a north-south conveyance system and a non-revenue water reduction project, as well as an associated solar power plant.

All significant milestones in the preparatory stages have been completed, including governance, completion of

the required feasibility studies, as well as solutions for the energy supply and the financial mechanism for donor contributions.



## Improving water management, improving lives



The 2017 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Water called for a **UfM Water Agenda** to enhance regional cooperation towards sustainable, integrated water management in the region, as well as to steer efforts towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. Developed through the **UfM Water Expert Group**, this agenda is composed of two main elements: a work programme, which sets out a series of technical recommendations, and a financial strategy, which makes financial recommendations for leveraging investments and improving access to water in the region. Constant consultations with UfM member states and regional stakeholders have been held to ensure that the **agenda responds to the needs of all countries** and that the regional dimension complements national efforts.



Policies and investments that can help UfM countries achieve more water security and climate-resilient economies include: better planning for water resource alloca-

tion, adoption of incentives to increase water efficiency, and investment in infrastructure for more secure water supplies. Adopting a cross-sectoral approach has been a constant endeavour of the UfM, which explains the strong focus on a nexus approach, that includes connections with climate change adaptation and links with water-related employment policies.

## CONNECTING THE MEDITERRANEAN WITH THE GLOBAL AGENDA

In the framework of the UfM Water Agenda and with a view to enhancing cooperation with relevant partners in the region, the UfM actively participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Palestine International Water Forum, held in June 2018 in Ramallah. The forum, held on the theme of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM): Best Practices and Technology Transfer, provided the opportunity to discuss new IWRM tools to better prevent water crises, address water scarcity, enhance efficient water management and, ultimately, contribute to water security. The event gathered decision-makers, water management practitioners and international water experts as well as regional and international organisations to share experiences and explore innovative ideas.

Beyond the UfM Water Agenda, the UfM Secretariat, in cooperation with other regional stakeholders, took an active role in coordinating the Mediterranean countries' contribution to the 2018 World Water Forum, held in Brasilia. Acting as a mediator, the Secretariat convened, in Brasilia, the second consultation meeting for the partners of the Mediterranean regional process towards a coordinated input to the global water agenda.

THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION  
HOLDS ONLY **3% OF GLOBAL WATER  
RESOURCES** AND HOSTS OVER  
**50% OF THE WORLD'S WATER POOR  
POPULATIONS**, AROUND  
**180 MILLION PEOPLE**

Source: Revolve – "Water Around the Mediterranean" 2017 report

**"Water is a cross-cutting element that is critical in achieving sustainable development. Simply put: no water, no future. We need [therefore] to think differently about water and the way we manage it to ensure food security, conserve our delicate ecosystems, and end poverty by 2030."**

Hassan Aboelnga, *President of the Arab Youth Parliament for Water (Egypt)*

## ALSO ON THE AGENDA...

- The Mediterranean Water Knowledge Platform
- Governance and financing for the Mediterranean water sector
- Capacity-building programme on water integrity in the Middle East and North Africa

[ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/](http://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/)



# Environment and blue economy



UfM-labelled project Plastic Busters (Italy)

The Mediterranean region is one of the world's 25 climate change hotspots, facing **environmental threats to its biodiversity, natural resources and habitable areas**. Furthermore, millions of marine animals die every year because of polluted oceans, while 18% of Mediterranean species are already threatened with extinction.

Aware of this pressing issue, the UfM has adopted a cross-sectoral, region-wide approach, facilitating dialogue to ensure the coherence of policies developed in the region to address these common challenges.



## Plastic Busters for a litter free Mediterranean

Marine litter represents a serious threat to the Mediterranean's marine and coastal environments, as well as to human health. Approximately **80% of marine litter is land-based** and most of it is made of plastic and micro-plastics. Its impact on marine biota within marine protected areas, including on endangered species, remains poorly addressed. However, it is clear that prevention and mitigation measures are urgently needed.

The **Plastic Busters MPAs** project stems from the overarching Plastic Busters initiative, promoted by the University of Siena and labelled in 2016 by the 43 UfM member states as a priority regional initiative to prevent, reduce and remove marine litter from the Mediterranean Sea.

Its official launch took place in 2018, following €5 million in funding received from the EU Interreg Med Programme. The project will be implemented by the University of Siena, the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) and a wide consortium of national and regional organisations, with the overall goal of maintaining biodiversity and preserving natural ecosystems in marine protected areas by implementing a harmonised approach to marine litter. Over a 4-year period, **the project will address the entire management cycle of marine litter**, from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation, as well as actions to strengthen networking between pelagic and coastal marine protected areas located in Albania, Croatia, Greece, Italy, France and Spain. Furthermore, it will also develop a **regional plan on marine litter management** in the Mediterranean, including recommendations for policymaking at regional, national and local levels, enabling the transfer of knowledge to Southern Mediterranean countries as well.

**“Our ocean plays such a critical role in our economy, and the Mediterranean is both a tourism and conservation hotspot filled with rich biodiversity. We cannot afford to continue turning our ocean into a vast, contaminated plastic soup.”**

**Antonio Troya**, director of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation



## A sea of opportunities

The promotion of the blue economy enables us to harness the potential of the Mediterranean Sea. The wealth of resources available to us needs to be exploited in a sustainable and collaborative manner, enabling growth, investment and job creation, while reducing poverty and safeguarding healthy seas.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, the **WestMED initiative** seeks to promote specific measures to secure sustainable development of the maritime economy in ten western Mediterranean countries. The UfM is working alongside the initiative to ensure coherence and synergies with the broader **Mediterranean Blue Economy Agenda**. At the end of 2018, ministers of the WestMED countries, together with the EC and the UfM, adopted a declaration to strengthen regional cooperation on this initiative. A common roadmap was agreed on for the development of a sustainable blue economy that generates growth, creates jobs and provides better living conditions for Mediterranean populations.

Furthermore, in an effort to contribute to the development of an **interactive Blue Economy Community**, the UfM Secretariat currently manages a virtual knowledge centre, the **Mediterranean Blue Economy Stakeholder Platform**. As a web-based portal, it provides a centralised platform for marine and maritime information in order to improve synergies across different initiatives and projects. Accessible to all 43 UfM member states, the platform is continuously improved to better meet user expectations, providing up-to-date information and enabling networking among its members.

BY 2050, THERE MAY BE MORE  
PLASTIC THAN FISH IN THE  
SEAS AND UP TO **99%**  
OF SEABIRDS WILL HAVE INGESTED  
PLASTIC

Source: European Commission

## CONNECTING THE MEDITERRANEAN WITH THE GLOBAL AGENDA

Following on from the mandates given by the 2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, the UfM Secretariat has been closely involved in the coordination, implementation and monitoring of the Horizon 2020 initiative. This initiative aims to provide a feasible timetable to depollute the Mediterranean Sea by 2020, while providing appropriate financial resources and technical support. A meeting held in early 2018 provided a framework for the fine-tuning of actions to be undertaken during the remaining two years of the initiative's work plan. Furthermore, the conclusions of the H2020 initiative will contribute to the post-2020 UfM environment agenda. To this end, discussions have been held within the UfM framework with member states and regional stakeholders in order to gather inputs and identify specific topics to be prioritised post-2020, in line with the UN SDGs and building on the achievements of H2020.

## EXPERTS' CORNER

In line with the objective of supporting access to financing for green entrepreneurs, the UfM Secretariat and the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) have worked on a publication on **Innovative Financing Instruments for Green Entrepreneurs in the Southern Mediterranean region**. Visit the UfM website to find out more!

## ALSO ON THE AGENDA...

- The integrated intervention programme for the depollution of Lake Bizerte
- The Mediterranean ReSCP Post Rio+20 project
- Collaboration with the United Nations Convention on Desertification
- The BLUEMED Initiative (see p.21)

[ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/](http://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/)



# Transport



A site of the UfM-labelled project Logismed Training Activities (Tunisia)

Historically an **area of exchanges and interconnections**, the Euro-Mediterranean area holds enormous potential in terms of regional integration. Facilitating the movement of goods and individuals in the region could significantly **contribute to unleashing this potential**, leading to increased prosperity and socio-economic development.

Acknowledging these opportunities, the UfM Secretariat is working towards comprehensive transport connectivity in the region, in line with the 2013 UfM Transport Ministerial Declaration and the ensuing Regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean (RTAP, 2014-2020).

## Towards a new regional action plan on transport connectivity

With the current action plan coming to an end in 2020, the UfM Secretariat has started to lay the groundwork for a new regional strategy on transport.

To this end, a **UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity** was launched and met for the first time in 2018. This platform has four working groups on land, maritime

A **3.6%** GROWTH IN REGIONAL TRADE AND A **6.5%** GROWTH IN EXPORTS COULD RESULT FROM ON-GOING AND FUTURE TRADE FACILITATIONS & TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS 

Source: World Bank

and air transport and logistics, and works in coordination with the **UfM-IFIs Transport Finance Committee**. It aims to formulate concrete recommendations for a post-2020 UfM transport action plan, connecting it with funding instruments and engaging the private sector.

In parallel, the UfM Secretariat finalised a study on the state of transport in the Mediterranean region under the current RTAP, which will inform discussions between UfM member states as they look towards the next ministerial meeting on transport.

## 10 STRATEGIC AXES FOR ENHANCED TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The study proposes ten strategic axes for action, with a special focus on regional integration:

1. Strengthening the institutional dimension, specifically through capacity-building
2. Advancing towards an integrated, interoperable and sustainable infrastructure network
3. Promoting seamless multimodal freight transport chains
4. Modernising the road freight transport industry
5. Investing in rail infrastructure networks and promoting their interoperability
6. Enhancing air transport, in particular through a Euro-Mediterranean Common Aviation Area
7. Streamlining border-crossing procedures
8. Making transport safer, more secure and energy efficient
9. Securing the necessary investment for transport infrastructure
10. Improving Euro-Mediterranean cooperation on transport



## Knowledge sharing to drive competitive maritime sector

The UfM Secretariat organised the **UfM-Suez Canal Conference on Maritime Transport and Logistics** in 2018 on intermodality and connectivity issues in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The event explored opportunities for increasing synergies between the region's main ports and promoting capacity-building as a driver for sustainable maritime transport and logistics.

A launch event for the UfM-labelled **TransLogMed** project was held during the conference. Promoted by the Escola Europea – Intermodal Transport, the project will support the implementation of **efficient maritime transport solutions** in five Euro-Mediterranean countries through more than

30 seminars and certified courses. Training activities have already started at various ports in Italy, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia, and will ultimately benefit 1,000 professionals.

**“There is today a strong shared ambition among governments, local authorities and financial institutions to enhance connectivity in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Capacity-building and training are key in tackling this challenge, and I commend the UfM for putting them at the core of its transport strategy.”**

*Prof. Benabid Tahar, Director of the National School of Technology (Algeria)*

## Putting road safety firmly on the agenda for all

During the 2018 Summit of the **International Transport Forum** (ITF/OECD), the UfM Secretariat organised a side-event to address transport safety challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Held in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the ITF and the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, the event sought to raise awareness and share best practices on ways to **curb the alarming number of road fatalities in the region**, launching an important call for joint action towards safer, sustainable mobility. 

## CONNECTING THE MEDITERRANEAN WITH THE GLOBAL AGENDA

First contact was established between the UfM Secretariat and the African Union (AU) in the field of transport connectivity. The two organisations have mutually reinforcing objectives in North Africa, above all regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region.

Following a meeting between the UfM Secretary General and the AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, both organisations agreed to further coordinate their actions on infrastructure and energy projects. A UfM Secretariat delegation visited the AU Headquarters to discuss the implementation, in the North African region, of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

As a first concrete outcome of the visit, the UfM Secretariat participated in the 2018 PIDA Week on “Realising Africa's Integration through Smart Infrastructure and Good Governance”.

# Urban development



UfM-labelled project UPFI Bouregreg Valley (Morocco)

The Mediterranean region is characterised by one of the fastest urbanisation rates worldwide, with almost **60% of the total population already living in urban areas**. By 2030, nearly 80% of the Southern Mediterranean population will be concentrated on just 10% of the land, predominantly on the coast.

Rapid urbanisation calls for a bottom-up approach and region-wide solutions, as well as the mobilisation of all actors, to address an increasing number of demographic, socio-economic, environmental and technological challenges both at local and regional levels.



## Concrete steps towards the UfM Urban Agenda

The Second **Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development** (Cairo, May 2017) established a UfM regional platform for dialogue and technical cooperation towards a sustainable, innovative and integrated development agenda. Through its three working groups, and in coordination with the UfM-IFIs Urban Project Committee, the platform seeks to effectively translate the **UfM Urban Agenda** into concrete action.

In 2018, the **UfM Thematic Working Group on Affordable and Sustainable Housing** met to start evaluating the current situation in UfM member states and identifying needs and policy gaps, in order to develop a concrete action plan.

The UfM Secretariat also paved the way for the launch of the **UfM Thematic Working Group on Urban Regeneration**, which will likewise develop an action plan. The UfM Permanent Working Group on Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting will periodically inform member states and the UN on the progress of the UfM Urban Agenda, as well as on the advancement of the UN agenda for sustainable urban development in the Euro-Mediterranean region (for more information, see the box: Connecting the Mediterranean with the Global Agenda).

**“Through the support of the UfM Secretariat and the discussions within working groups, the outcomes of the Urban Agenda for the EU serve as an inspiration to share good practices and design solutions collectively.”**

**Wallis Goelen Vandebroek**, Senior Expert, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission



## Smart cities for a sustainable future in the Mediterranean



UfM member states unanimously endorsed the Euro-Mediterranean **Smart City Innovation Centres** project on 20 September 2018. This regional project aims to replicate, in three Southern Mediterranean cities – Alexandria (Egypt), Fez (Morocco) and Tunis (Tunisia) – the success of the Nice Smart City Innovation Centre in France.

Promoted by the Euromed Cities Network, the project will involve local authorities, research and academic institutions, and leading smart-city-related companies. These actors will be able to exchange knowledge and pool data in a single location, **multiplying opportunities to develop smart urban services and solutions** that will ultimately improve the quality of life of the three cities' 7 million inhabitants.

### WELL-PLANNED AND MANAGED URBANISATION: A POWERFUL TOOL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The UfM Working Group on Affordable and Sustainable Housing defined sustainable homes as:

- Healthy, durable, safe and secure
- Affordable for the whole spectrum of incomes
- Using ecological, low-energy and affordable building materials and technology
- Resilient to potential natural disasters and climatic impacts
- Connected to decent, safe and affordable energy, water, sanitation and recycling facilities
- Using energy and water efficiently and equipped with on-site renewable energy generation and water recycling facilities
- Non-polluting to the environment and protected from external pollution
- Well connected to jobs, shops, health and child care, education and other services
- Properly integrated into, and enhancing of, the social, cultural and economic fabric of the local neighbourhood and the wider urban area
- Properly run and maintained, renovated in a timely manner



## Innovation and finance combine for sustainable urban development



The **Urban Projects Finance Initiative** (UPFI) is an innovative tool that coordinates the actions of financial institutions to achieve the common goal of constructing sustainable cities in the Mediterranean region. Funded

by the European Commission and co-managed by the AFD and the EIB, with the support of the UfM, it aims to **identify and select flagship sustainable urban development projects** likely to be politically endorsed by the UfM member states and implemented in the short term.

As the initiative in its current form will be phased out in December 2019, the UPFI has been extended with a new format for the 2018-2020 period, thanks to an allocation of €4.5 million under the EIB's Economic Resilience Initiative (ERI). The new UPFI-ERI aims to fund the preparatory phases of new urban development projects in the Balkans and in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean.

**“The UfM plays a key role in guiding the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the Euro Mediterranean Region, and is closely working with EIB and other regional actors to identify innovative and impactful projects in affordable housing and urban regeneration.”**

*Gerry Muscat, Head of the Urban Development Division, EIB*



## CONNECTING THE MEDITERRANEAN WITH THE GLOBAL AGENDA

The UfM Secretariat organised a networking event on the implementation of the UN's New Urban Agenda in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Held during the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the World Urban Forum (Kuala Lumpur, 10 February 2018), it was co-organised with UN-Habitat, the European Commission and the EIB.

Following this meeting, UN-Habitat, UNDP and UN Women signed a joint letter of support for the UfM Urban Agenda as an effective means of contributing to these two global agendas in the region.

**THE SOUTHERN SHORES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ARE URBANISING RAPIDLY WITH GROWTH RATES OF MOST MAJOR CITIES BETWEEN**

**1.5% - 2% PER YEAR**

Source: CIDOB



# Consolidating the UfM's capacity for action



UfM Secretariat team

## THE REFORM OF THE UfM LABEL AIMS TO:

- ✓ **Ensure strong political support** from UfM member states to labelled projects
- ✓ **Strengthen the regional dimension** of UfM labelled projects
- ✓ **Reinforce the capacity** of the UfM Secretariat to help kick-start and broker finance for labelled projects
- ✓ **Strengthen the value** of the label through periodical reviews of each labelled project
- ✓ **Reinforce communication efforts** on labelled projects

## A more operational mandate

Having endorsed 54 projects to date, UfM member states have adopted a proposal by the Secretariat on the reform of the UfM label to reinforce the value that the organisation brings. The aim is to **make the label clearer, more present, and more effective.**

## A more efficient Secretariat

In response to the growing activities of the UfM Secretariat, in July 2018, member states approved the first major administrative reform of the Secretariat since 2011. This aimed to **improve governance, increase transparency,** and allow the Secretariat to **effectively implement concrete activities** in accordance with its mandate.

What's more, in order to further consolidate the capacities of the organisation and enhance the impact of its actions, the UfM Secretariat has developed a more structured long-term strategy, which involves **building partnerships with some of the region's major donors.** These include the Swedish International Development

Cooperation Agency (Sida), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the Norwegian Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, all of whom have committed to securing funding for UfM activities, platforms and labelled projects. One such example is the **€6.5 million financial agreement** covering the period 2017-2020, signed with Sida, which aims to tackle three main priority areas: women's empowerment; water, the environment and the blue economy; and energy and climate action. Meanwhile, the **€2 million advisory project** signed with the BMZ and covering the period 2018-2020 will focus on job creation for young people and the promotion of trade and regional integration.

## Staffing and Organisation

### A committed team for the Mediterranean

The UfM Secretariat operates under the direction of the Secretary General, supported by six Deputy Secretary Generals (DSGs), each in charge of a sectorial division. The Secretary General and the DSGs are **appointed by member states** for a three-year term, renewable once, with three DSGs nominated by EU countries and three by Southern and Eastern countries.

### The composition of the Secretariat further consolidates the UfM core principles of co-ownership and shared responsibility.

In addition to the sectorial divisions, the Secretariat includes horizontal services: the office of the Secretary General, the directorate for operations and partnerships, the legal and administrative department, and the communication and public affairs unit. The UfM Secretariat team consists of more than **60 local and international staff members** from over **18 Euro-Mediterranean countries**, including diplomatic and technical personnel seconded by member states and partner institutions such as the European Commission and the European Investment Bank.

### The internship programme

The UfM Secretariat **offers challenging opportunities for talented graduate students and recent graduates** to work in a truly international environment within its sectorial and administrative programmes.

Open to nationals of the 43 UfM Member States, these six-month internships not only provide young people with a better understanding of the UfM's mandate, programmes and main activities, but also allow them to supplement their academic knowledge with practical work that can help prepare them for their future careers.

**"The internship at the UfM Secretariat has given me the opportunity to work in a multicultural and multilingual environment, learn from an experienced and committed team, and become more aware of how important it is to cooperate and coordinate efforts in order to tackle climate change and energy-related issues in the Mediterranean region. It has been a challenging and enriching experience."**

**Laura Sopena Cabrero**, *intern at the Energy and Climate Action division (2018-2019)*

Internship opportunities are opened twice a year. If you're interested, don't hesitate to apply here: [ufmsecretariat.org/work-with-us/internships/](http://ufmsecretariat.org/work-with-us/internships/)

# €6.5 MILLION

FINANCIAL AGREEMENT COVERING THE PERIOD 2017-2020 SIGNED WITH Sida

WHICH AIMS TO TACKLE 3 MAIN PRIORITY AREAS

- WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
- WATER, ENVIRONMENT & THE BLUE ECONOMY
- ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION

MEANWHILE, THE

# €2 MILLION

ADVISORY PROJECT SIGNED WITH THE BMZ AND COVERING THE PERIOD 2018-2020 WILL FOCUS ON

- JOB CREATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND
- PROMOTION OF TRADE & REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Looking towards the future, the UfM Secretariat will increase discussions with the main financial actors in the region, while also exploring innovative ways to gain additional funding for UfM activities and projects, notably through engagement with the private sector.

## Acronyms and abbreviations

<b>AFD</b> <i>Agence Française de Développement</i>	<b>ETF</b> European Training Foundation	<b>IPCC</b> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	<b>MSMEs</b> Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises	<b>PRIMA</b> Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area	<b>UN</b> United Nations
<b>AU</b> African Union	<b>EU</b> European Union	<b>ISPRA</b> The Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research	<b>MYCN</b> Mediterranean Youth Climate Network	<b>PVE</b> Preventing Violent Extremism	<b>UNCTAD</b> United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>BMZ</b> German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	<b>FAO</b> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	<b>ITF</b> International Transport Forum	<b>NAP</b> National Adaption Plan	<b>SCP/RAC</b> Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production	<b>UNDP</b> United Nations Development Programme
<b>CIDOB</b> Barcelona Center for International Affairs	<b>FRC</b> Forming Responsible Citizens	<b>IWRM</b> Integrated Water Resources Management	<b>NDC</b> Nationally Determined Contributions	<b>SDGs</b> Sustainable Development Goals	<b>UNESCO</b> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>CIHEAM</b> International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies	<b>GDP</b> Gross Domestic Product	<b>LA</b> Local authority	<b>NEET</b> Not in Education, Employment or Training	<b>Sida</b> Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency	<b>UNFCCC</b> The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>CMI</b> The Centre for Mediterranean Integration	<b>GIZ</b> <i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit</i>	<b>MedECC</b> Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change	<b>NGO</b> Non-governmental organisation	<b>SMEs</b> Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises	<b>UNIDO</b> United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>COP</b> Conference of the Parties	<b>GUNi</b> Global University Network for Innovation	<b>MedNC</b> Mediterranean New Chance	<b>OECD</b> Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	<b>SPREF</b> SEMed Private Renewable Energy Framework	<b>UNOSSC</b> United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
<b>DSG</b> Deputy Secretary General	<b>HOMERe</b> High Opportunity for Mediterranean Executive Recruitment	<b>MEETMED</b> Mitigation Enabling Energy Transition in the Mediterranean Region	<b>OGS</b> Italian National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics	<b>SRIA</b> Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda	<b>UNWTO</b> The World Tourism Organisation
<b>EBRD</b> The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	<b>IECD</b> <i>Institut européen de coopération et de développement</i>	<b>MENA</b> Middle East and North Africa	<b>OPEV</b> The Observatory to Prevent Extremist Violence	<b>SWRO</b> Sea Water Reverse Osmosis	<b>UPF</b> Pompeu Fabra University
<b>EC</b> European Commission	<b>IFI</b> International Financial Institution	<b>MIPAI</b> Mediterranean Intelligence and Public Affairs Institute	<b>OSCE</b> The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe	<b>UEMF</b> EuroMed University of Fez	<b>UPFI</b> Urban Projects Finance Initiative
<b>EIB</b> European Investment Bank	<b>ILO</b> International Labour Organization	<b>MoU</b> Memorandum of Understanding	<b>PIDA</b> Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa	<b>UfM</b> Union for the Mediterranean	<b>VET</b> Vocational Education and Training
<b>EMUNI</b> Euro-Mediterranean University	<b>IMISCOE</b> International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion	<b>MPA</b> Marine Protected Area	<b>PPP</b> Public-Private Partnership	<b>UfMS</b> Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat	<b>WHO</b> The World Health Organization
<b>ERI</b> EIB's Economic Resilience Initiative					







Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



[ufmsecretariat.org](http://ufmsecretariat.org)



Palau de Pedralbes | Pere Duran Farell, 11 | 08034 Barcelona, Spain  
Phone: 00 34 93 521 4100 | Fax: 00 34 93 521 4102