Contents

Message from the Secretary General ........................................................ 5

The UfM in a nutshell.............................................................................. 6

Improving quality of life and responding to basic needs .................... 8

Providing equal and fairer opportunities............................................ 14

Enhancing environmental and climate responsibility ....................... 24

Together for the Mediterranean: 2019 in partnerships ................. 38

Acronyms and abbreviations ............................................................... 42

Message from the Secretary General
Nasser Kamel

As we prepare for the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Process, it is an opportune moment to reflect on what helps bind our longstanding commitment to continue forging ever stronger bonds of partnership in the Euro-Mediterranean region. For its part, the foundation of the Union for the Mediterranean and its Secretariat was able to further focus, consolidate and institutionalise the vision set forth 25 years ago. But the essence of the decision to choose this path of multilateral partnership can be found in the determination to always walk hand-in-hand with our Members States and partners. What is more, whilst the journey so far has also doubled as one long learning curve, we have of course enjoyed the steadfast backing of our Co-Presidency, whose continuous support has made possible everything we have so far achieved, and plan to achieve in the future.

Driven by a shared dedication to fulfil the legitimate ambitions of the peoples of the Euro-Mediterranean region in the face of the challenges brazenly inhibiting the pursuit of their dreams, we are fully convinced that regional ambitions call for regional sobriety, both conceptually and institutionally.

Propelled by this conviction, the year 2019 saw the UfM Secretariat reach previously unscaled heights of regional cooperation, energised at all times by the UfM mandate, guided by its Roadmap for Action, and motivated by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The sentiment and urgency of this international agenda are both shared by the UfM Secretariat and help galvanise its own momentum towards some of the human development goals that hold most potential in the region, especially those gained through South-South and triangular cooperation.

Our Mediterranean identity can be measured in lessons learned throughout history, and the one lesson that has stood the test of time is that on the commitment of each, depends the destiny of all.

As we are committed then to promoting regional cooperation and integration, we share not only the dream of peace, stability and shared prosperity, but also the desire to inspire through our work and to lead by our example. The path to a better future belongs to us all, and we are determined to be bold in our pledges, but in the same vein, our actions and impact shall act as the sole standard-bearers of our promise to deliver on a better tomorrow.

Nasser Kamel
The UfM in a nutshell

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

A common ambition: creating an area of peace, stability and shared prosperity

As a direct continuation of the Barcelona Process, the launch of the UfM in July 2008 was a true commitment 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. It is co-financed by the European Commission and by contributions from UfM Member States. Ever since its creation, the institution has continuously worked to promote political dialogue across the Euro-Mediterranean region, in view of creating an area of peace, security, stability and shared prosperity that addresses the legitimate aspirations of its citizens.

A roadmap for action: tackling the root causes of the challenges to be faced

The last few years have marked a turning point for the institution, exemplified by the adoption of a roadmap for action by the Member States in January 2017. The UfM roadmap for action, entitled ‘The Union for the Mediterranean: an Action-driven Organisational with a Common Ambition’, underlines the key role of the UfM as a unique framework for political dialogue and regional cooperation across the Euro-Mediterranean area whilst focusing its work on the socio-economic root causes of the growing challenges that the region is facing by capitalising on its immense untapped potential, particularly its youth.

Efforts made in 2019 to continue effectively implementing the Roadmap were acknowledged by the Member States’ Ministers of Foreign Affairs at the 4th UfM Regional Forum (10 October 2019, Barcelona, Spain), which 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 (2014-2019), and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Ayman Safadi. Ministers also further agreed to focus work in the coming years on key priorities for the Mediterranean, such as the environment and climate change, trade, investment promotion, job creation and economic cooperation, including the digital economy and infrastructure connectivity.

An action-driven methodology: translating policies into results

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, cooperation projects, which in return nourish the definition of relevant policies.

1. Political fora: defining the UfM priorities of work 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.

A strong commitment to the global agenda: contributing to the implementation of 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 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.
Improving quality of life and responding to basic needs

The bare essentials of life remain a daily struggle for far too many of our citizens, while societies still face wide inequalities, for which future generations will hold us accountable. Our endeavours to enhance human development must therefore be uncompromising in the pursuit of these fundamental Sustainable Development Goals.

First things first

Water – a fundamental right and a tool for stability

The UfM Water Agenda has been elaborated to provide an integral, coherent vision complete with recommendations and proposals for UfM Member States. It facilitates the application of integrated water resource management approaches whilst including a strategy to encourage the increased financing of much needed water investments. Prime examples of this were the UfM National Workshops on Sustainable Water Financing conducted this year in Jordan and Albania. The overall objective of these workshops was to facilitate the implementation of the Water Agenda’s financial strategy by UfM Member States. An important feature of each workshop were the specific objectives, tailored to the demands and requirements of each country. These have helped create concrete recommendations and have proven so successful that more countries have requested UfM support to organise their own workshops in 2020.

Investing in the water sector is a powerful catalyst for boosting economic growth and achieving stability. In a region that faces acute water shortages, this is especially true and water therefore needs to be a fundamental element of all dialogue and cooperation. In its efforts to boost this dialogue, the UfM organised, together with the European Union, the Arab League, GWP-Med and other partners, a Water Governance and Business Forum in Cairo, Egypt. It highlighted the link between water security and economic growth, making the quest for water security to be made a collective goal that needs to involve as many diverse actors as possible. The event served as an intermediary step towards the Mediterranean Water Investment Forum, also organised by the UfM in the framework of the MED – Mediterranean Dialogues held in Rome. The conference examined appropriate options for blending different sources of financing including stakeholders, international organisations and new forms of public-private partnership (PPP).

The UfM Secretariat is determined to pave the way for private actors to have a more central role in the water sector as a prerequisite for future sustainable financing. This includes supporting governments in developing a long-term vision on how to involve the private sector, with the necessary policy reforms to ensure the delivery of such a vital service and resource is underwritten with secure and robust plans.

Water for Gaza

The available water in Gaza ranks it among the lowest in the world. Not only this, 97% of it is unfit for human consumption. In attempt to find a solution to this critical situation, the UfM endorsed a desalination plant project to provide Palestinians living in Gaza with access to clean drinking water. Its ambitious objective is to address the water deficit for a population of 2 million people.

Throughout 2019, the UfM Secretariat continued to exercise its facilitation role among the parties involved, especially by concentrating efforts on a political and financial level, as well as carrying out activities with all the international financial institutions and partners.

In May 2019, international donors to the project gathered with partners involved in its promotion and coordination to allow the Palestinian government to present the progress on the project. Of particular relevance was the detailed timeline for completion that was shared, identifying July 2024 as a target date for the plant to be up and running. In this regard, the project is already becoming a reality on the ground. The first tenders have been launched with the support of the World Bank and substantial progress has been achieved in ongoing discussions between Palestine and Israel regarding arrangements for the entry of materials into Gaza for the project.
Finding food security in education and knowledge

The sustainability of food production and consumption in Mediterranean countries is pivotal for their partnership for promoting cooperation on food security and rural development in the Mediterranean.

The UfM-labelled project, Higher Education on Food Security and Rural Development, is testament to this commitment. It not only supports the CIHEAM Master of Science degrees and advanced training courses for professionals with the allocation of scholarships to Southern and Eastern Mediterranean students but has also created an alumni platform.

How?

1. Contribute to an improved understanding of the increasing challenges facing the region’s food systems.
2. Identify and promote innovative solutions by linking food security, nutrition and environmental sustainability while developing and supporting training activities and actions on the ground.
3. Raise awareness by bringing these issues to the centre of national, regional and international debates.

This is particularly relevant as the Mediterranean holds 18% of the world’s marine flora of which nearly 28% are endemic species. Endemic species are those plants and animals that only exist in one geographical region, rendering their preservation of utmost importance to prevent their extinction.

In 2019, CIHEAM organised the Forum on Mediterranean Food Cultures, where the UfM agreed to work jointly with CIHEAM and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) on the development of a multi-actors platform for sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean. The platform’s objectives are threefold:

1. Contribute to an improved understanding of the increasing challenges facing the region’s food systems.
2. Identify and promote innovative solutions by linking food security, nutrition and environmental sustainability while developing and supporting training activities and actions on the ground.
3. Raise awareness by bringing these issues to the centre of national, regional and international debates.

The Mediterranean holds 18% of the world’s marine flora of which nearly 28% are endemic species.

The challenge of the transition from an informal economy to widespread formal employment is one that affects countries on both shores of the Mediterranean. Working in these circumstances seriously hampers sustainable and inclusive development efforts on the ground. The challenge of the transition from an informal economy to widespread formal employment is one that affects countries on both shores of the Mediterranean and there is a growing need for viable alternatives that will protect workers’ rights in a properly functioning labour market.

The UfM Secretariat recognises this and strongly contributes to regional and global efforts to accelerate the transition from informal to formal employment, adopting the principles of decent work in order to protect the most vulnerable. With this in mind, it organised the workshop, Informal Business Integration (18 March, Barcelona, Spain) to focus on two interrelated subjects: the role of social dialogue and the protection of women, young people and vulnerable groups at risk of economic exclusion.

The workshop stressed the need to involve representatives of the informal sector into structured social dialogue alongside other social partners to ensure an equal footing in both representation and advocacy. It further highlighted the importance of building conducive regulatory frameworks, enhancing trust, as well as unleashing the potential for new technologies like blockchain solutions to democratise social dialogue.

Among the best practices presented were the SOLiD Charter on Social Dialogue, the Sharaka Forums in Jordan, Tawasol in Egypt, the Democratisation of Care Economy through Social and Solidarity Economy in Spain, and Social Dialogue as a Tool to fight Informal Employment (KADİM) in Turkey.

Promoting the transition from informal to formal employment

Around 2 billion people globally work in an informal capacity, most of them in emerging and developing countries. The majority of these workers do not enjoy protection from social security, rights at work or decent working conditions.
The schools give hope to younger generations, rebuilding their confidence in the future, and most of all, in themselves.

In some Euro-Med countries, young people make up to half of the population.
Two target populations – Empowering women and youth

Turning words into action on gender equality

More than ever, issues surrounding gender equality are gaining momentum across the Euro-Mediterranean region. Beyond becoming a social matter, countries are even introducing strong legislative and regulatory measures for women’s rights.

However, in spite of these measures, the region continues to face considerable challenges regarding the achievement of gender equality, and a clear gap perseveres between legislative efforts and implementation. The prevalence of discriminatory practices and unequal access to services and resources continues to block progress for women.

The key to fostering change will therefore be the full potential of women in the Euro-Mediterranean region. In light of this, the UfM Secretariat was mandated by the 2017 Cairo Ministerial Declaration to establish a regional mechanism that monitors progress on gender equality, aiming to provide recommendations to policymakers and regional stakeholders regarding the implementation gap.

In 2019, a set of indicators and monitoring tools were submitted to UfM Member States, taking into account their social, economic and cultural diversity. These included indicators to monitor legal frameworks and enforcement tools, women’s access to leadership and decision-making processes, women’s economic participation, violence against women and girls, as well as specific indicators about perceptions and stereotypes.

Once endorsed, the monitoring mechanism will be compiled by national counterparts, including national women’s machineries, in coordination with national statistical offices, practitioners and researchers on gender equality. The UfM’s added value can be seen in the technical support offered in view of enhancing implementation, encouraging more impact measurement and emphasizing the importance of reliable gender data collection systems that will ultimately serve to unlock the full potential of women in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Promoting women’s economic leadership

The promotion of women’s economic empowerment sees strong engagement across all countries. Nonetheless, women still experience greater obstacles when it comes to accessing the world of business or simply employment, despite higher levels of enrolment in, and completion of, tertiary education.

The UfM Secretariat is acutely aware of this fact. Part of its efforts to combat the problem are invested in the annual organisation of the UfM Women Business Forum that offers Euro-Mediterranean women-owned and -led firms a unique opportunity to take their businesses to the next level. The 2019 edition took place in Barcelona on 19–21 November, in the margins of the Smart City Expo World Congress. It brought together more than 120 women entrepreneurs, national women business organisations, leading international organisations and business support schemes to share knowledge and ideas on different business opportunities, good practices and innovative business models. This edition focused on promoting the role of women in the circular economy, technology and innovation.

The programme included roundtable training sessions with international business and industry experts, as well as access to a dedicated online networking platform for B2B matchmaking with the opportunity to organise a series of pre-scheduled B2B meetings and new business model presentations. Participants also had the opportunity to take part in two site visits to local start-ups in Barcelona to learn about their circular economy business models and eco-friendly products.

When we ask women directors or producers if gender inequality is an issue in their countries, they usually say there is no problem, only when they look at the numbers do they realise it really is a problem.

Isabel Castro Martinez, board member of the European Women’s Audiovisual Network and speaker at the UfM International Women’s Day event in 2019.
Agents of change

The Euro-Mediterranean is one of the youngest regions in the world. The UfM has therefore placed youth at the heart of its action, giving a strong impulse to youth engagement within the region’s priorities, in view of further empowering young people, meeting their needs and bringing into play their potential as agents of change. The organisation has made it a priority to guarantee the representation of young experts, leaders or project beneficiaries, in order to have their opinion voiced and accounted for when charting future actions and shaping the Mediterranean development agenda.

Building on the outcomes of youth-related activities organised in the past years, the UfM Secretariat has been working on the development of a structured and coordinated youth strategy in the Euro-Mediterranean area. In this context, it held a focus group during the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe’s University on Youth and Development (15-18 September 2019, Molineta, Spain), to discuss the development of this strategy, and more generally the structuring of its youth programme.

The focus group gathered experts on youth programmes and policies, as well as representatives of the main youth-led and youth-serving organisations from the Euro-Mediterranean region to identify inclusive processes and participatory approaches that will help build a relevant grassroots youth strategy for the UfM. They advised the organisation on how to actively involve young people in the definition of its priorities and actions, helped to define how to mainstream the youth dimension in other UfM activities, as well as how to create synergies with other existing strategies in the region.

Shaping the young leaders of tomorrow

The World Youth Forum (16 December, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt) hosted in 2019 the first-ever Model Union for the Mediterranean (Model UfM), where 90 young delegates exchanged ideas for action and recommended initiatives to decision-makers and influential figures. In a simulation of UfM Ministerial Conferences, the participants drafted mock ministerial declarations to address pressing issues such as youth unemployment and climate change.

Youth delegates stressed that only improved regional cooperation and integration would be capable of tackling climate change. A big part of this would be the provision of opportunities for the development of circular economy models as well as blue and green financing. In line with this, they called for better training for younger generations that will take into account the constraints imposed by climate change for the region. They also emphasised the urgent need to create jobs for women and youth, foster entrepreneurship and develop cross-border projects in the Mediterranean, in order to equip young people with the skills that are required in a time of technological innovation and a rapidly changing job market.

The Model UfM encouraged participants to appreciate the importance of building consensus in a region that has great potential for integration, and inspired them to learn more about the dynamics of building mutual understanding right across the Mediterranean.

On 4 December 2019 in Barcelona, the UfM gathered young entrepreneurs to exchange ideas on their projects and success stories in the tourism area, with a view to discussing the sector’s role as a catalyst for job creation on both shores of the Mediterranean, especially for youth and women.

The group discussions focused on youth entrepreneurship and job creation, women in tourism and the role of digital transformation in the sector. The exchanges concluded that policy dialogue on tourism in the Euro-Mediterranean region cannot be neglected, and neither can the transfer of knowledge and best practices in the field. Specific capacity-building, standardisation and training skills in the tourism sector would also help to alleviate youth unemployment and create various opportunities for women.

Read more about UfM activities on young people:
Read more about the conclusions of the event:
https://ufmsecretariat.org/tourism-job-creation/
From local to international: a new education paradigm

The Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes (UEMF), a flagship UfM project, celebrated a new generation of young Euro-Mediterranean leaders during its first graduation ceremony of master's degrees. By enabling North-South, South-North and South-South mobility through its exchange programmes, the university provides a platform of intercultural dialogue and cooperation between the two shores of the Mediterranean. This intra-mural university offers high quality multi-dimensional curricula in Engineering and Architecture and in Humanities and Social Sciences, complemented in both cases by cross-cutting classes on Euro-Mediterranean history, civilisations, heritage and languages along with transversal courses in information technologies and entrepreneurship.

As a complement to the existing educational exchanges on offer, the UfM-labelled project, HOMERE, promotes internship opportunities between Mediterranean countries, improving cross-cutting skills and increasing the employability of high-profile Mediterranean students in their last year of study before graduation.

In January 2019, HOMERE was proposed by France to the Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development through the call for proposals for pilot projects on legal migration under the Mobility Partnership Facility. The project was awarded €2.6 million, allowing the UfM Member States to endorse the second phase of the project. HOMERE now aims to extend to new countries and new sectors such as the blue economy, tourism or marketing and achieved more than 200 cross-border internship placements in 2019 alone.

The importance of mobility and cultural exchanges for the region's stability has always been recognised by the UfM. This appreciation led to its partnership with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Egypt to organise a meeting on higher education regional cooperation in December 2019 in Cairo. The purpose of the meeting was to kick-start a discussion that would renew the regional strategic agenda on this important topic.

Gathering representatives from Ministries for Higher Education and Research, regional networks of universities and students, higher education institutions and research centres, the meeting recommended a change of scale in the support mechanisms to pave the way for an ambitious higher education initiative to encompass the whole UfM region. A central tenet of the success of this proposal rests on the capitalisation of existing networks and collaborations whilst facilitating a transformative impact on higher education systems and institutions and ultimately, on communities themselves.

We are at the threshold of a new era. Higher education has experienced dramatic changes over the past years and there is no doubt that these should be seen from a regional perspective.

Prof. Mohamed Shinawi, Adviser to the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Egypt.

Recognition of Higher Education qualifications: where does the Euro-Mediterranean region stand?

With the supply and demand for international higher education growing, the recognition of academic qualifications across borders has never been so crucial. The mobility of students, academics and workers, expanding employability and life-long learning opportunities for all, strengthening cross-border cooperation and deepening regional integration processes, are all essential for prosperity in the region and are all very dependent on a system that recognises qualifications in a uniform manner. The number of international students is estimated at more than 5 million, an increase of 67% since 2005. Yet, like in other regions of the world, the diversity of higher education systems amongst Southern Mediterranean countries and between Southern and Northern Mediterranean countries has resulted in a lack of common practices and mechanisms for the recognition of skills and qualifications acquired abroad.

Determined to change this, the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMU) and the UfM Secretariat organised a joint conference on the state of play and the challenges ahead for enhancing the recognition of higher education qualifications across the region. Participants shared best practices whilst pointing out the need for a coordinated use of top-down and bottom-up approaches to make concrete progress towards a more systemised approach to recognising higher education qualifications in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The UfM disseminated widely the policy and operational recommendations formulated during the conference, notably feeding into the work of the UfM regional platform on higher education internationalisation and academic mobility.
Opportunities abound: Economic growth and the future of work

Creating jobs, skills and opportunities for all

On 2-3 April in Cascais, Portugal, the 4th UfM Ministerial Conference on Employment and Labour was held under the chairmanship of the European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour mobility, Marianne Thyssen (2014-2019), and the Minister of Labour of Jordan, Samir Saïd Murad, to discuss the most pressing labour market needs in the region, in particular the persistent inequality in access to jobs, mostly for women and young people. Ministers stressed that economic progress and social cohesion need to go hand-in-hand and reiterated their commitment to creating the conditions to mainstream gender-specific policies in employment and labour.

Four regional priorities were emphasised:

1. Supporting decent job creation and entrepreneurship
2. Mobilising public and private stakeholders to create partnerships and synergies
3. Building inclusive labour markets to integrate potentially vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
4. Investing in quality education systems and training, to boost skills and employability in a changing world of work, especially in the digital sector

Reducing the impact of informal employment through promoting the potential of the social and solidarity economy was also strongly highlighted. Elsewhere in the Conference, a seminar focusing on entrepreneurial, digital and green skills.

Finally, the UfM workshop on The Future of Work and Skills for the Future, at the European Training Foundation (25 November, Torino, Italy) focused on entrepreneurial, digital and green skills between skills acquired at universities and the requirements of labour markets.

Preparing the Mediterranean for the future of work

With support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the UfM Secretariat held several conferences and workshops in 2019 to contribute, at the Euro-Mediterranean level, to finding sustainable, responsible and inclusive solutions to the challenges surrounding the future of work.

In partnership with Social Economy Europe and the Spanish Business Confederation of the Social Economy (CEPES), the UfM Secretariat also held the workshop, Social Economy in the MENA Region and the Balkans (5 July, Barcelona, Spain), to explore the potential of the social economy not only as an alternative way of delivering economic, social and environmental value, but also as a smart way of unlocking resources, creating sustainable employment, and generating inclusive economic growth. This sector constitutes more than 3.2 million enterprises and organisations and 15 million jobs across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The UfM Conference on Digital Transformation and Digital Skills for the Future (30 September, Tallinn, Estonia), marked an important step towards the UfM’s engagement with the rapidly shifting technological landscape across the labour market. The conference drew on Estonia’s experience as one of the most advanced digital societies worldwide, and explored a broad range of subjects, including e-governance, e-services, digital economy and the digital skills.

The global initiative on innovative employment services for youth, YouMatch (promoted by GIZ), aims to establish a regional demand-driven toolbox for youth-oriented employment services to assess existing labour market tools, enable peer learning and knowledge exchange on a regional and international level, and encourage innovation as well as the transfer of promising approaches within and among the participating countries.
Promoting trade and investment

The UfM region remains one of the most economically fragmented areas in the world, with trade flows sharply skewed towards a higher concentration in the EU representing 90% of all Euro-Mediterranean trade flows and a further 9% between the EU and its Southern and Eastern UfM neighbours. South-South trade meanwhile accounts for only 1%.

With the clear objective of including business organisations and operators in the definition and implementation of the trade and investment reform agenda in the Mediterranean, the UfM Secretariat organised its first UfM Business Forum exclusively dedicated to trade on 18 June in Cairo, Egypt. It focused on two trade issues of paramount importance to the economic integration of the region: market access and e-commerce.

Participants addressed many challenges. Some of these included identifying strategies for the removal of existing market access restrictions, targeting issues such as tariff and non-tariff barriers, quality infrastructure, market information, the costs of trade, rules of origin and the development of meaningful linkages between relevant market players. They also highlighted the importance of capacity building, technical assistance, and the transfer of knowledge and expertise for a functional trading system with a robust regulatory framework and for the full use of free trade opportunities.

The Agadir Agreement was highlighted as a good example of South-South cooperation in the field of trade and the UfM Secretariat announced its commitment to support, in cooperation with GIZ, the Member States of the Agreement with technical training in the area of trade policy. This training would encompass issues such as rules of origin, the classification of goods, origin certification and other technical trade issues specific to needs in the region. The first training sessions were organised in Amman, Jordan, between 25-28 November 2019.

Fostering the economic potential of Culture and Creativity

The 2nd Creative Forum Ljubljana, co-organised by the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GIZ/BMZ and the UfM, took place 12-15 November in Ljubljana, and provided capacity-building and networking opportunities for more than 200 representatives of creative hubs, entrepreneurs and civil society, as well as governments, and international and local organisations.

The forum provided space for important debates on the creation of an environment that would encourage the cultural and creative sectors at the regional level. Under the title, Creative Capital United, this second edition sought to unite forces across sectors, from education to the economy and policymaking, in view of unlocking the potential of clusters and creative industries as a driver of economic growth and social resilience. In 2020, this UfM-Slovenian programme will seek to offer capacity-building activities to young creative talents and entrepreneurs, based on the policy recommendations of the forum.

WHAT ARE THEY?

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Creative industries refer to all the value produced that is derived from culture and innovative ideas, whether the end result is a product or a service. A creative industry finds its origins in individual creativity and can range from music, architecture and design to literature, advertising or video games. It usually relies on the exploitation of intellectual property.

We need to equip people with digital skills, which are increasingly in demand. This is a joint responsibility at all levels, with employers, unions and civil society organisations. With new tools to exchange best practices and monitor progress, we aim to gear up our joint work on fair jobs and growth on both sides of the Mediterranean.

The urgency of action needed to fight the climate emergency in the Mediterranean is being felt daily by countless threatened ecosystems and millions of the region’s citizens. Since no country can reverse the dangerous trends on its own, achieving these Sustainable Development Goals needs to be the priority of all. Only together can we reach our common goals. We need each other now more than ever.

Inadequate access to comprehensive and up-to-date research for private and public decision-makers compounds this problem. Furthermore, with existing studies generally focused on the North, the hotter and drier South struggles to make soundly informed and regionally coordinated decisions when it comes to climate action. Fully aware of this acute need, the UfM Secretariat closely supports and collaborates with MedECC, a network of more than 600 scientists from 35 countries with expertise on the Mediterranean region.

These efforts resulted in the development last year of a preliminary assessment of the first-ever scientific report on the impact of climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean basin. This landmark scientific study, a first for the region, was accompanied by a series of events and actions, which countries committed to. A side-event was also organised in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and provided a platform to discuss how to achieve the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through supporting community-based mitigation, adaptation and cross-cutting actions in the region. NDCs were set by the Paris Agreement and are of crucial importance for the monitoring of national climate targets, including mitigation and adaptation actions, which countries committed to.
This year’s gathering stood out as it catalysed as well as establish action plans for the next year. respective work programmes for each platform ties, review progress in the implementation of the is convened to ensure coherence across activi-

every year, the UfM Energy Platforms Meeting with electricity markets, renewable energy, energy transitions are unique in their capacity to foster action and debate whilst gathering all Euro-Mediterranean countries as well as key stakeholders dealing with electricity markets, renewable energy, energy efficiency and gas in the Mediterranean region.

Every year, the UfM Energy Platforms Meeting is convened to ensure coherence across activities, review progress in the implementation of the respective work programmes for each platform as well as establish action plans for the next year. This year’s gathering stood out as it catalysed preparation for the next UfM Ministerial Meeting on energy, foreseen in 2021, underlining the interconnection between energy and the climate. In that regard, the UfM will launch in early 2020 an external evaluation process to assess the progress achieved since the last Ministerial Meeting on energy, which took place in 2016.

Going local
The climate emergency we are facing is a constant reminder of the important role played by every actor of society in shifting the current paradigm. In this regard, cities and regions are the first line of defence. The success of effective measures to mitigate and adapt to the negative effects of climate change depends, to a great extent, on the regulatory measures they enforce, the policies they adopt and the projects and initiatives they implement.

Through an understanding of their crucial role, the UfM placed local authorities at the heart of its 2nd Energy and Climate Business Forum (18 July 2019, Lisbon), organised in Lisbon together with the Portuguese Energy Agency (ADENE) and under the auspices of the Portuguese Ministry of the Environment and Energy Transition. The forum provided the opportunity to explore perspectives for future local authority actions, such as optimised institutional policies and legal reforms in the energy sector as well as specific regulations and initiatives that have had a positive impact on the development of investments.

As the energy demand is estimated to increase by 62% in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries by 2048, actors are also becoming increasingly aware of the existing barriers in finance, particularly when it comes to small-scale initiatives, regardless of their productivity and replicability.

The gathering in Lisbon empowered its participants to identify realistic, adapted and replicable financing models as well as highlight successful local approaches that have gone beyond the traditional reliance on grants and loans. Successful stories and practices, such as the UfM labelled projects Clima-Med (more information on p. 25), and Tafila Wind Farm, were celebrated as positive reference points to emulate.

The Tafila Wind Farm alone breaks new ground for renewable energy in the Mediterranean and serves as an example of successful partnership between the public and private sectors. Beyond the fact that Tafila Wind Farm accounts for almost 25% of the energy produced from renewable sources in Jordan in 2018 and currently powers 83,000 homes, it plays a major role in the local community. Indeed, 80% of the employees are from the local area, in addition to the wind farm providing scholarships for students, supporting cultural activities and running a mobile clinic.

Sustainable consumption: a win-win situation
Fighting climate change and safeguarding the future of the next generation depends on our successful shift towards a green, circular economy that hinges on changing our production and consumption habits. In April 2019, the UfM Member States moved closer to the completion of a new post-2020 environmental agenda, that centred on three main pillars:

1. Support the transition to a green, circular and socially inclusive economy based on sustainable consumption and production practices and eco-friendly solutions.
2. Prevent and reduce pollution across land, sea and air.
3. Protect, preserve, manage and restore natural

Decarbonisation and the energy transition should be addressed as driven action lines of our society as a whole. The UfM, in its unique role of regional dialogue and as a debate platform, shall be enhanced at all levels, to contribute actively to build an inclusive and proactive Mediterranean energy policy, that ensures the fulfilment of energy and climate goals and commitments.

John Galamba, Portuguese Secretary of State of Energy.

Changing our habits for a sustainable future

The UfM Energy Platforms
The integration of electricity markets, improvement of renewable energies, promotion of energy efficiency measures, as well as the development of gas markets all play an essential role in contributing to the diversification of the energy on offer to ensure a more secure and sustainable energy transition.

These regional challenges are at the centre of the work of the UfM Energy Platforms: the UfM Regional Electricity Markets Platform, the UfM Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Platform and the UfM Gas Platform. These three platforms are unique in their capacity to foster action and debate whilst gathering all Euro-Mediterranean countries as well as key stakeholders dealing with electricity markets, renewable energy, energy efficiency and gas in the Mediterranean region.

Every year, the UfM Energy Platforms Meeting is convened to ensure coherence across activities, review progress in the implementation of the respective work programmes for each platform as well as establish action plans for the next year. This year’s gathering stood out as it catalysed preparation for the next UfM Ministerial Meeting on energy, foreseen in 2021, underlining the interconnection between energy and the climate. In that regard, the UfM will launch in early 2020 an external evaluation process to assess the progress achieved since the last Ministerial Meeting on energy, which took place in 2016.

Going local
The climate emergency we are facing is a constant reminder of the important role played by every actor of society in shifting the current paradigm. In this regard, cities and regions are the first line of defence. The success of effective measures to mitigate and adapt to the negative effects of climate change depends, to a great extent, on the regulatory measures they enforce, the policies they adopt and the projects and initiatives they implement.

Through an understanding of their crucial role, the UfM placed local authorities at the heart of its 2nd Energy and Climate Business Forum (18 July 2019, Lisbon), organised in Lisbon together with the Portuguese Energy Agency (ADENE) and under the auspices of the Portuguese Ministry of the Environment and Energy Transition. The forum provided the opportunity to explore perspectives for future local authority actions, such as optimised institutional policies and legal reforms in the energy sector as well as specific regulations and initiatives that have had a positive impact on the development of investments.

As the energy demand is estimated to increase by 62% in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries by 2048, actors are also becoming increasingly aware of the existing barriers in finance, particularly when it comes to small-scale initiatives, regardless of their productivity and replicability.

The gathering in Lisbon empowered its participants to identify realistic, adapted and replicable financing models as well as highlight successful local approaches that have gone beyond the traditional reliance on grants and loans. Successful stories and practices, such as the UfM labelled projects Clima-Med (more information on p. 25), and Tafila Wind Farm, were celebrated as positive reference points to emulate.

The Tafila Wind Farm alone breaks new ground for renewable energy in the Mediterranean and serves as an example of successful partnership between the public and private sectors. Beyond the fact that Tafila Wind Farm accounts for almost 25% of the energy produced from renewable sources in Jordan in 2018 and currently powers 83,000 homes, it plays a major role in the local community. Indeed, 80% of the employees are from the local area, in addition to the wind farm providing scholarships for students, supporting cultural activities and running a mobile clinic.

Sustainable consumption: a win-win situation
Fighting climate change and safeguarding the future of the next generation depends on our successful shift towards a green, circular economy that hinges on changing our production and consumption habits. In April 2019, the UfM Member States moved closer to the completion of a new post-2020 environmental agenda, that centred on three main pillars:

1. Support the transition to a green, circular and socially inclusive economy based on sustainable consumption and production practices and eco-friendly solutions.
2. Prevent and reduce pollution across land, sea and air.
3. Protect, preserve, manage and restore natural
resources in the Mediterranean region within an integrated approach towards ecosystems, including terrestrial, marine and coastal dimensions.

That same month, the EU-funded SwitchMed initiative launched its second phase and the UfM endorsed the Interreg MED Green Growth community, which gathers 14 projects promoting sustainable development in the Northern and Eastern Mediterranean every summer causing an almost 40% spike in plastic entering the sea. For instance, the MedCoast 4BG – the Med Coasts for Blue Growth project aims to analyse the impact of human activities – including pollution – on coastal areas, while promoting co-evolution, a sustainable way of life that maintains economic growth while respecting and preserving our natural systems. Achieving a perfect balance in that regard is not possible without taking into consideration the effects of climate change and the principles of sustainable development. This is particularly relevant considering that the Mediterranean is the world’s leading tourist destination – both in terms of international and domestic tourism – and seeing as tourism is a heavy source of pollution, with its generation of solid waste, including marine plastic pollution, sewage, loss of biodiversity and greenhouse gas emissions. More than 200 million tourists visit the Mediterranean every summer causing an almost 40% spike in plastic entering the sea.

Just as pollution does not stop at borders, the UfM’s work to foster regional cooperation and bring together stakeholders from the Northern and Southern shores must not either. With this motif in mind, the UfM co-organised a regional workshop under the framework of its labelled project, Plastic Busters, in order to find and create synergies that will help align and synchronise efforts to combat marine litter throughout the Mediterranean. Plastic Busters is a regional initiative to prevent, reduce and remove marine litter from the Mediterranean Sea and has proven so successful that it has received considerable funding for two years in a row, allowing an expansion of the activities and countries involved. The Mediterranean region’s huge potential for sustainable and environmentally friendly development growth should serve as an extra incentive, especially as various key actors in the region are actively supporting the transition to an inclusive, circular and green economy.
Protecting life in all its forms

Saving our forests

Mediterranean forests and other wooded lands in the region make vital contributions to rural development, food security and the alleviation of poverty, as well as to the agriculture, water, tourism, and energy sectors. Yet, protected areas represent only 4.3% of the region’s total surface area.

In April 2019, the UfM Secretariat co-chaired along with the FAO an event under the framework of the 6th Mediterranean Forest Week (Brummana, Lebanon). Through the launching of a forest restoration initiative, the project aims to scale up restoration by creating the right circumstances that enable pilot activities to apply appropriate Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) approaches, and therefore contribute to the achievement of national and global restoration targets. With activities underway, the FAO and the UfM were able to collaborate again within the project’s framework by organising a regional training session on climate finance, benefiting trainees coming from eight Mediterranean countries.

Desertification: a rampant threat

The Mediterranean region is characterised by an acute scarcity of land resources suitable for production, due to aridity and inherently poor soils in many areas. These more natural factors are only exacerbated by widespread poor land management.

To mitigate the effects of desertification, the UfM partnered with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to foster

With this project […] the Mediterranean region will enhance national and regional capacities and the political will to successfully plan, implement and monitor large-scale programmes mainstreaming forest and landscape restoration as a key option to achieve the National Determined Contributions in the context of the Paris Agreement.

Tiina Vähänen, Chief of the Forestry Policy and Resources Division, FAO.

Taking a closer look

BlueSkills promotes opportunities for marine and maritime careers by developing skills, exchanging knowledge and investing value in research for a more sustainable Mediterranean Sea. It aims to develop new curricula and increase employability in the marine and maritime sectors.

How?

- **Improving Education**
  - Advanced Studies Master’s Degree.
  - Summer Schools.
  - Research mobility through multilateral scholarships available for BlueSkills researchers.

- **Enhancing Professional Training**
  - Professional traineeship through multilateral scholarships available for BlueSkills students.
  - Thematic capacity-building workshops and conferences addressing specific issues and challenges.

- **Raising Awareness & Information Sharing**
  - Awareness campaigns directed towards policymakers and civil society.
  - Knowledge and best practice sharing through a specific online community: www.bluegrowth.inogs.it

**LOCATIONS**
Algeria / France / Italy / Libya / Malta / Mauritania / Morocco / Portugal / Spain / Tunisia
The Civil Protection Mechanism offers a framework to work together to prevent, prepare for and respond to major disasters. It allows us to put together our strengths and train together to reach a stronger response in case of disasters. This partnership and solidarity among all UfM Member States should be strengthened further. Today and tomorrow we should use the opportunity to enhance our cooperation, to work towards a new era of Civil Protection across the Mediterranean.


cooperation on drought, desertification and land rehabilitation in the Mediterranean region, within a wider effort to adopt circular economy policies. In particular, the UfM Secretariat contributed to developing National Drought Plans to enhance societal resilience within UfM Southern Mediterranean countries. As a result, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia have already joined the Drought Initiative and have successfully developed a National Drought Plan.

Power in numbers when tackling disasters together

Disasters know no borders and the challenges and risks faced are very often shared. With an increasing number of forest fires, floods, earthquakes, marine pollution, pandemics and other natural catastrophes across the Euro-Mediterranean area, cooperation among UfM Member States is a priority in civil protection. The need to build stronger regional civil protection services and networks will benefit not only countries on a national level but also as a region through resource and knowledge sharing. By establishing a regional Civil Protection Mechanism, UfM Member States can play a key role in coordinating common responses to crises and cooperate on risk assessment, disaster prevention, preparedness and planning when a disaster occurs in a neighboring country and overwhelm its ability to contain it.

Last year also saw the relaunching of the process of Civil Protection cooperation across the Euro-Mediterranean region. After 10 years of hiatus, the UfM Secretariat and the European Commission convened a meeting of Directors-General of Civil Protection of UfM Member States on 11 February 2019 and pushed forward the preparation of a regional action plan. Attention was focused on stronger cooperation concerning disaster risk management and increased resilience, including inter-institutional collaboration between political, operational and scientific players.

UfM Member States agreed to build on the recommendations of the three working groups set up to address:

1. Citizen engagement in disaster risk management.
2. The role of volunteers in civil protection.

A technical working group on Preparing for Efficient Mutual Assistance in the Euro-Mediterranean area convened under the UfM framework on 26 November in Brussels, Belgium. The outcomes of the discussions focused on host nation support, preparedness for responses, risk assessment and situational analysis to support rapid responses in case of natural and man-made disasters. The purpose of this working group served to facilitate the identification of priorities for the foreseen Action Plan for efficient mutual assistance in the Mediterranean area.

Exploring drivers of human mobility in the Mediterranean

Human security around the Mediterranean is highly dependent on the overall socio-political situation but it is also impacted by environmental change. Climate change is in fact already proving to be a very active agent capable of destabilising the region. By decreasing available natural and financial resources it has a direct correlation with the exacerbation of regional human conflicts.

The UfM Secretariat puts the people and their demands at the heart of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. This explains the consistent effort to tackle the root causes affecting migration and the focus on sustainable development as a regional solution to involuntary migration. With this aim in mind, the UfM uses its unique role to encourage coordinated and collaborative approaches for research in the Euro-Mediterranean area on migration and related integration factors. A prime example of this work has been its support of the launch of the Euro-Mediterranean Research Network on Migration (EuroMedMig) in 2018.

The EuroMedMig and the UfM returned to collaborate once again this year through the organisation of an event that allowed researchers and experts from all over the region to exchange on possible links between climate and environmental change, and the root causes of migration. The outcomes and conclusions of this gathering are now actively feeding the work of the researchers and professors attending, highlighting the value and potential of inter-disciplinary cooperation.
Rethinking the future of sustainable infrastructure

Towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities and communities in the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean region has 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.

It was within this context that UfM Member States launched the UfM Urban Agenda in 2017, alongside a UfM regional platform for dialogue and technical cooperation, to effectively translate the agenda’s priorities into concrete actions. Through its two thematic working groups, as well as the UfM Permanent Working Group on Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting on Sustainable Urban Development and in coordination with the UfM-International Financial Institutions (IFIs) Urban Project Committee, the platform has been working on the design of a UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040 for sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities and communities in the Mediterranean.

By 2030, nearly 80% of the Southern Mediterranean population will be concentrated on just 10% of the land.

The buildings sector represents 40% of energy used in the EU and holds a considerable cost-effective energy saving potential.

The UfM Permanent Working Group on Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting aims at establishing a results-based, systematic evaluation, monitoring and reporting system for the implementation of the UfM Urban Agenda, in particular, through harmonisation of data in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The UfM Thematic Working Groups on Affordable and Sustainable Housing and on Urban Regeneration were convened in 2019 to frame the Action Plan’s areas of focus. On housing, Member States explored benchmarking methodologies for rented properties, ways of securing investment in the rental sector, shared experiences concerning public housing policies and engagement with private investors. One outcome was to agree to provide assistance for good quality project design and encourage social impact assessment, while facilitating capacity building for access to finance for projects. The working group also concluded that energy efficiency remains an important component of sustainable housing.

On urban regeneration, two meetings were held to identify a future course of action regarding the following topics:

- integrated urban planning
- urban upgrading of informal settlements and deprived urban areas
- regeneration of railway sites, historical centres and industrial areas
- the links between city and port

Overall, the following priorities were agreed as the overarching goals that would underpin the Action Plan, in line with the new strategic orientation of UN-Habitat:

- strengthened climate resilience and improved urban environments
- reduced spatial inequality and poverty
- effective urban crisis prevention and response
- enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions
- overall improvement of quality of life

Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue on transport connectivity

Historically an area of exchange and interconnection, the Euro-Mediterranean area holds enormous potential in terms of regional integration. Facilitating the movement of goods and individuals in the UfM-labelled project, Bouregreg Valley Development

Read more about UfM activities on urban development and transport.
Historically an area of exchange and interconnection, the Euro-Mediterranean area holds enormous potential in terms of regional integration.

The region could significantly contribute to unleashing this potential, leading to widespread increases in prosperity and socio-economic development.

With the current Regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean Region (RTAP) coming to an end in 2020, the UfM Secretariat continued this past year to lay the groundwork for the next UfM Ministerial Conference on Transport, which will take stock of the implementation of the RTAP 2014-2020, and launch a new regional action plan.

Meetings between the UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity and its four Working Groups, on Land, Air and Maritime Transport and Logistics, were held between 11-13 June 2019 in Barcelona, Spain, and on 7-8 November 2019 in Brussels, Belgium. They enabled the launch of preparatory work on deliverables for the next Ministerial Conference, namely the evaluation of the current RTAP, particularly in regards to the implementation at country level of transport activities, and the identification of strategic and evidence-based policy proposals for the next one.

In parallel, the UfM Secretariat continued to support the development of both existing and new transport projects with long-term regional impact, to help improve transport and logistics connectivity in the region. The UfM-IFIs Transport Finance Committee convened in 2019 to overview the progress made in the implementation of the UfM-labelled regional projects as part of its efforts to develop the project pipeline under the new edition of the Regional Transport Action Plan.

Building bridges: promoting connectivity between the EU and Africa

The UfM Secretariat participated in, and contributed, to the work of the Connectivity Cluster of the Task Force on Transport (TFT), created within the framework of the EU-Africa Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs. The TFT Connectivity Cluster is a platform shared between the European Commission, the African Union Commission, as well as private sector actors, financing institutions and academia, and which counts on high-level engagement and support.

Covering land, maritime and inland waterway transport, the objective of this cluster is to develop policies, strategy and investment recommendations as well as reform proposals and collaborative projects.

Promoted by the Escola Europea – Intermodal Transport, TransLogMed aims to establish an efficient, interoperable, and sustainable transport infrastructure network in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Through that, it strives to foster regional integration in the Mediterranean, enhance professional performance, as well as promote employment and gender equality in the transport and logistics sector.

How?

Training actions supporting the development of door-to-door logistics and the implementation of efficient maritime-related intermodal transport solutions.

Develop sustainable transport chains and door-to-door logistics activities.

Enhance the competencies of ports, logistics operators and transport administrations through the implementation of 30 seminars and certified courses benefiting 1,000 professionals.

Promote intermodal solutions, including maritime transport, as well as road, rail or inland navigation.

WHAT IS IT?

INTEROPERABILITY

Interoperability is the ability of two, or more, transport systems to operate effectively and efficiently together to fulfill consumers’ requirements of a transport system. In other words, it is the ability to make a seamless journey between the origin and destination.

Read out more here:
Together for the Mediterranean: 2019 in partnerships

The UfM has a clear objective to expand and consolidate its role as a regional platform for dialogue and for cooperation. It engages in strategic partnerships with key stakeholders in the Mediterranean in view of creating a stronger impact in its efforts towards the shared goals of regional stability, integration and development and to better connect regional actions with global goals.

Governments
Strengthening political dialogue amongst the 43 Member States to build peace, security and stability in the region.

International organisations
Guaranteeing the coherence of regional actions and their contribution to the implementation of the SDGs in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

Local and Regional Organisations
“Localising” UfM action through territorial cooperation to bring impact closer to the citizens.

Parliaments
Increasing the democratic legitimacy of UfM actions and ensuring the views of national Parliaments are reflected in it.

Financial Partners
Facilitating access to finance for UfM initiatives and projects through a dynamic network of donors and financial institutions.

Civil Society
Encouraging a bottom-up perspective to ensure citizens’ opinions are voiced and accounted for in shaping the Mediterranean development agenda.

Think Tanks
Enhancing science-policy interfaces for more effective research-based actions.

In 2019, the 6th South EU Summit highlighted the role of the UfM as a key partner to promote dialogue and convert challenges into opportunities in the Mediterranean region.

14 June 2019, Valletta, Malta.
Governments

4th UfM Regional Forum. 15th Annual Coordination meeting of Regional Organisations. First official visit of the Arab Maghreb Union. UfM Secretary General’s participation in the UN General Assembly. UNDP visit to the UfM. High Representative for the UNAOC’s visit to UfM.

International organisations

15th Meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the 5+5 Dialogue in Valletta. UfM participation in the OSCE Mediterranean Conference. High Representative for the UNAOC’s visit to UfM.

Financial Partners

The European Commission is the UfM’s major financial partner, contributing to half of its annual budget. GIZ financially supports UfM activities on areas such as employment and trade. Sida financially supports the UfM to enhance regional dialogue on gender equality, water, environment, green economy, energy and climate action in MENA countries. The UfM Secretariat signed a partnership agreement with R20 to promote climate finance opportunities.

Parliaments

15th Plenary of PA-UfM. Visit of a delegation of parliamentarians from the European People’s Party group to the UfM.

Civil Society


Think Tanks

IV MedThink 5+5 Forum. Seminar with think tanks and research institutions at the UfM.

Local and Regional Organisations

Memorandum of understanding signature and labelling of ENI CBC Med. ARLHM’s 10th Plenary Session.
Acronyms and abbreviations

ADENE
Portuguese Energy Agency (Agência para a Energia)

ARLEM
Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly

B2B
Business to business

BMZ
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung)

CEPES
Spanish Business Confederation of the Social Economy (Confederación Empresarial Española de la Economía Social)

CINEAM
International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies

COP
Conference of the Parties

CPO
Reference Centre for Epidemiology and Cancer Prevention

EIB
European Investment Bank

EMUNI
Euro-Mediterranean University of Piran

ENI CBC Med
European Neighbourhood Instrument Cross-Border Cooperation Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme

EU
European Union

EUroMedMig
Euro-Mediterranean Research Network on Migration

FAO
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FLR
Forest and Landscape Restoration

GIZ
German development agency (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)

GWP-Med
Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean

HOMERe
High Opportunity for Mediterranean Executive Recruitment

IFI
International Financial Institution

MedECC
Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change

MedINC
Mediterranean New Chance

MENA
Middle East and North Africa

MPA
Marine Protected Area

NDC
Nationally Determined Contribution

OECD
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OSCE
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

PA-UM
Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

PPP
Public-private partnership

R20
Regions of climate action

RTAP
Regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean Region

SDG
Sustainable Development Goal

Sida
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

SME
Small and medium-sized enterprise

TFT
Task Force on Transport

UEMF
Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes

UN
United Nations

UNAOC
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

UNCCD
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNDP
United Nations Development Programme

UNFCCC
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNICEF
United Nations Children’s Fund
