



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.

Source: European Commission.

UfM-labelled project, Bouregreg Valley Development

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

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

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Read more about UfM activities on urban development and transport:



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

The buildings sector represents

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

