

Online Meeting

Regional Program Political Dialogue South Mediterranean

25 years later: How do young people perceive the Barcelona Process

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December 10, 2020
13:00 – 14:30 (GMT+1)
Online Zoom Meeting

It is often stated that the history of the Euro-Mediterranean region has been shaped by exchanges and interaction between nations and cultures across the Mediterranean Sea. And with over 60% of its population under the age of 30, the Euro-Mediterranean is one of the youngest regions in the world, which makes young people crucial to the future of this historical cooperation.

In 1995, initially 27 partners agreed to provide a framework for strengthened dialogue and comprehensive cooperation in the Mediterranean region which resulted in the Barcelona Process. Commonly known as the Union for the Mediterranean, this process has been an opportunity to make relations more operational and achievable throughout regional and sub-regional projects with relevance for those living in the region. The initiatives have been addressing areas such as economy, environment, energy, health, migration, education and social affairs. When it comes to challenges facing youth in the region, the Barcelona Process stressed that "youth exchanges should be the means to prepare future generations for a closer cooperation between the Euro-Mediterranean partners. A Euro-Mediterranean youth exchange cooperation programme should therefore be established based on experience acquired in Europe and taking account of the partners' needs". At the same time, with an average of 30% youth unemployment, the Euro-Mediterranean region has among the highest rates of youth unemployment worldwide.

In this sense and within the framework of the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona process, the Regional Program Political Dialogue South Mediterranean of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (PoDiMed), in partnership with the Union for the Mediterranean, organizes a 90-minute online meeting to discuss youth perceptions on the Barcelona Process. The event aims as well at highlighting some ongoing initiatives that are implemented under the umbrella of the UfM. This virtual meeting will bring together young speakers from both shores of the Mediterranean.

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Topics

- To what extent has the 'Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean' been beneficial to the youth in the region? How has it been boosting the north-south cooperation?
- What are the top priorities for youth in the region (education, mobility, employment)? Who are the key stakeholders to achieve these priorities? How can they work together?
- How to promote the Barcelona Process among youth?

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Agenda

13:00 -13:05	Introduction and opening remarks Mr. Thomas Volk Director, Regional Program Political Dialogue South Mediterranean
13:05 -13:10	Recorded Message Mr. Nasser Kamel Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean
13:10 -13:15	Recorded Message Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering Former President of the European Parliament
13:15 -13:45	Introduction speech Mr. Hatim El Otmani Founder and president of Atlas for development Ms. Haifa Al Banna Journalist and Social Media specialist Ms. Ellada Evangelou Programme Coordinator, Young Mediterranean Voices (Anna Lindh Foundation) Mr. Benjamin Welling Vice-Chairman, European Democrat Students
13:45 -14:15	Open discussion
14:15 -14:30	Final remarks and wrap-up

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All Information may be subject to change

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Concept: Regional Program Political Dialogue South Mediterranean

Moderation **Mr. Barik Mhadeen**
Senior Researcher, WANA Institute

Venue Online Zoom Seminar

Link https://kas-de.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Jh-G5ICZS_ywq63SJo6bwg