

# I. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE ACTION

## Coming together on climate and environment

### Giving the region's green agenda highest priority

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 these dangerous trends on its own, achieving the objectives set by the Paris Agreement on climate change, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), needs to be the priority for all.

agenda to strengthen efforts in the Euro-Mediterranean region to urgently tackle the multiple climate and environmental challenges it faces. The agenda, named **"Towards 2030: Agenda for a Greener Med - Contributing to Achieving the Environmental SDGs in the Mediterranean" (2030GreenerMed)**, is conceived as an agenda by and for all Mediterranean stakeholders. Owned, steered, and developed by UfM Member States together with partner organisations, the agenda builds on the conclusions and aggregate results of the H2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean, and is linked to the UN Agenda 2030 and its SDGs.

**The Mediterranean region is using about three times more natural resources than its ecosystems can provide.**

Source: Global Footprint Network, 2021

On 4 October 2021, the 42 Member States of the UfM adopted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Action. Through the declaration, the ministers agreed on a common


The challenges posed by climate change are all-encompassing, and societies' mitigation and adaptation actions should be too. The Mediterranean region is using about three times more natural resources than its ecosystems can provide. So far, no country in the Mediterranean meets the two key minimum conditions for global sustainable development: living within the planet's resource budget, and satisfactory well-being for its residents. Mainstreaming

**Mediterranean human story**

### Tackling the climate crisis

How local actions are confronting a global challenge

Read the stories of three local champions in the fight against climate change, in the framework of the UfM-supported project *Clima-Med*



**“The way I see it, the importance of sustainability is not only in issuing laws and decrees. The problem is how to implement them.”**  
**—Marwan Kaiss,**  
 Mayor of the Batloun Municipality, Lebanon

Read the full "2030GreenerMed" agenda here:




environment and climate action across all sectoral policies, including energy, industry, agriculture, and transport, while mobilising and scaling up resources to support the green transition is thus of paramount importance.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has proved to be a stark reminder that our health and our planet's condition are inextricably intertwined with climate change and increased human pressures on biodiversity and ecosystems, increasing the risks for outbreaks of zoonotic diseases with pandemic potential. In an effort to provide a holistic approach to the post-pandemic recovery, the 42 UfM Member States linked recovery plans to environmental conservation and restoration, especially through nature-based solutions, as well

as to green economy principles, ensuring that social and environmental aspects are fully taken into account.

Back-to-back with the 2<sup>nd</sup> UfM Ministerial on Environment and Climate Action, the UfM Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organised a high-level event to promote the political and operational efforts towards conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem restoration, with a special focus on food systems within the wider shift to a green, blue and circular economy at the Euro-Mediterranean level. This gathering helped establish the first steps towards implementing the recommendations outlined in the Ministerial Declaration in this specific area.



**Zoom on UfM projects**

**EURO-MED GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE**

**How?**

Strengthening an innovative sustainable economy

Protecting, restoring and valuing the natural environment and heritage

Promoting green living areas

Enhancing sustainable tourism

Consolidating a competitive innovation ecosystem & promoting the transition to a circular economy.

**Location**

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain

**Beneficiaries:**

- National and local public authorities engaged in policy-making
- Universities, research centres & higher education institutions
- Environmental and energy agencies, business support organisations
- NGOs, local communities and associations

The Euro-Med Governance initiative aims at contributing to the transition towards a climate-neutral and resilient society while ensuring sustainable growth and the well-being of citizens in the Mediterranean area. It is promoted by the Joint Secretariat/Managing Authority of the Euro-MED Programme 2021-2027 and of the Interreg MED Programme 2014-2020, and the Region Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur.

Learn more:



### **The Mediterranean: a model sea by 2030**

At the initiative of the French Government, eight Mediterranean governments and five international organisations got together in 2021 to launch an action plan: “The Mediterranean: a model sea by 2030” (PAMEx) that aims to reverse the dramatic loss of marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea by 2030 through concrete and collective actions. Indeed, the Mediterranean Sea is one of the most biologically diverse seas in the world but this diversity is threatened by the consequences of certain human activities such as climate change, overfishing, marine pollution, including marine litter, and unsustainable maritime transport practices. The UfM has been a partner of this action plan since its inception, and participated in its launch during the 2021 IUCN World Conservation Congress.

### **Rewarding climate adaptation, inspiring change**

By the end of the century, average temperatures in the Mediterranean are predicted to rise by up to 5.6°C, rainfall to drop by 20% and sea levels could increase by an average of up to 90 cm. The Mediterranean will therefore be exposed to new stresses when accessing resources, leaving it at risk of a great deal of unrest. Yet, the region is full of individuals seeking innovative solutions to manage disaster risks, adapt infrastructure, protect ecosystems and design public policies to make societies more resilient. Awards are a great way to shine a light on them, while raising awareness on innovative solutions, allowing people to connect and providing much-needed funding opportunities.

For the past three years, the UfM Secretariat has supported the Mediterranean Climate Change Adaptation Awards promoted by the French Agency for Ecological Transition (ADEME). The Awards aim at putting the spotlight on committed

regions and individuals, and showcase concrete mitigation projects by public and private figures in urban, rural, or coastal areas surrounding the Mediterranean, in an effort to reward exemplary and replicable practices.

The 2021 edition saw three winners under different categories, selected from among more than 50 projects submitted, while the main prize went to Algeria’s National Sanitation Office. The project was rewarded for its innovative water treatment plant with filters in the Tamacine area which helps combat desertification, protect water resources, and support local development. The pilot project has already been rolled out in two other communities and twenty new projects are in the pipeline. This sustainable, low-cost, low-energy and easy to use solution can be replicated in several rural areas with dry and arid climates to protect water resources and increase crop cover. The other two winners were the National Technical University of Athens who launched the HYDROUSA project in 2018 to experiment with innovative, regenerative, and circular solutions applied to water loops in the Mediterranean region. Also, the Lisbon Metropolitan Area, for its climate adaptation strategy based on promoting a culture of adaptation throughout all the key sectors in the area and creating partnerships between its 18 towns and villages.

Review the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Awards ceremony and discover the three winners here:



### **Ensuring equal access to climate data for all stakeholders in the Mediterranean region**

A wealth of scientific literature exists on the Mediterranean. Detailed risk assessments and data on climate can be found, yet resources are unevenly distributed and some of the most vulnerable regions’ public and private decision-makers have inadequate access to trusted and up-to-date research. Societies are increasingly suffering from climate hazards and informed policy-making based on hard data is now more important than ever.

In 2021, Europe witnessed its hottest summer on record, with wildfires raging in several countries along the Mediterranean coastline, while other countries experienced their worst flooding in decades.

## **In 2021, Europe witnessed its hottest summer on record, with wildfires raging in several countries along the Mediterranean coastline, while other countries experienced their worst flooding in decades.**

It is therefore of critical importance to improve the ways in which scientific evidence is constructed, integrated and communicated, so it can contribute more effectively, and quickly, to policy formulation. Because of this, the UfM Secretariat joined forces with the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) through a partnership agreement signed in October 2021, with the ambition to support the UfM countries’ access to the critical data they need to tackle Mediterranean climate change challenges.

Over the next few years, the UfM Secretariat and ECMWF will work closely together and undertake joint initiatives to develop targeted training sessions

and materials for knowledge transfer and capacity building in the region. They will also develop a free and open data dashboard with easy-to-use indicators and information for the UfM countries to maximise the uptake of climate and atmosphere monitoring data products, in all relevant regional initiatives.

### **More on partners**

#### **The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)**

Operates two services from the EU’s Copernicus Earth observation programme: the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) and the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S). Copernicus is a component of the European Union’s space programme, and is its flagship Earth observation programme, which operates through six thematic services: Atmosphere, Marine, Land, Climate Change, Security and Emergency. It delivers freely accessible operational data and services providing users with reliable and up-to-date information related to our planet and its environment.

Check out their website here:





**Streamlining access to climate funding**

Large-scale investments are needed to significantly reduce carbon emissions, as well as to prepare cities and societies for the adverse effects of a changing climate. Financing – either public, private or drawn from alternative sources – that seeks to support these mitigation and adaptation actions is known as climate finance. International climate agreements call for parties with more financial resources to assist those that are less endowed with resources and more vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change. However, while bilateral climate finance made up 37% of the overall amount committed to the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region in 2019, multilateral climate funds represented only 2%. The Mediterranean is missing a regional approach to climate finance to foster concerted, innovative and blended financial solutions and catalyse investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation projects.

In the framework of its partnership agreement with the Regions of Climate Action (R20), the UfM Secretariat is supporting the creation of a “Subnational Climate Fund” (SCF), developed to be exclusively focused on the Mediterranean Basin. The fund would target sectors and geographical areas complementary to the already existing SCF-Global fund in the region, therefore giving special attention to coastal areas and with a significant adaptation component. In that context, the UfM Secretariat, together with its partner R20, held two milestone meetings with the private investment partners of the consortium: Pegasus Capital Advisors and BNP Paribas, while contacts with IUCN-Med were established.

 **More on partners**

**Regions of Climate Action (R20)**

The partnership agreement with **Regions of Climate Action (R20)**, seeks to promote climate finance opportunities, notably at the level of regional and local authorities, as well as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with the help of private funds leveraged through public finance. R20 is a not-for-profit international organisation that works to create inclusive, resilient, and low-carbon societies by accelerating sub-national infrastructure investments in the green economy, with the goal of contributing to the SDGs.

**Learn more about R20 on their website, here:**



 **A Mediterranean climate finance one-stop-shop**

In the global commitment to fight climate change, the current lack of data regarding international private climate finance is a significant obstacle as it limits the ability of governments to make informed decisions in their attempts to scale up climate projects.

The UfM Secretariat has launched a one-stop-shop on climate finance to facilitate the sharing of climate finance information among decision-makers, including data, climate-related funding opportunities and climate tracking requirements.

**Check it out here:**



**Sustainable development driving change in the Mediterranean**

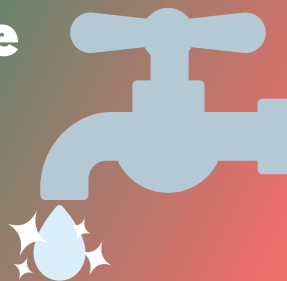
**Movement towards common solutions on water**

As a critical climate change hotspot, the Mediterranean region already has over 180 million people who are considered water poor. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that water is more precious than ever and a vital element in the sustainable rebuilding of our region. Moreover, the crisis has amplified disparities within and across countries and has exposed the ease with which international targets towards sustainable development and climate resilience can be sidetracked due to emergency re-prioritisation. The Mediterranean is no exception, with countries across its shores looking for responses that not only address the COVID-19 crisis, but

strived to organise each year multiple national workshops across the region to present the Water Agenda and foster the exchange of best practices on financial strategies, notably on how to attract investments for the water sector.

In 2021, the UfM Secretariat kick-started the year with an online conference engaging young water professionals, to include them in tomorrow’s solutions to key water challenges in the region. Organised together with the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), the World Bank and the Mediterranean Youth for Water Network (MedYWat), the conference also saw the participation of the Head of the Palestinian Water Authority, Mazen Ghunaim. Providing a blend of technical sessions and policy dialogues, the conference created a space for reflection and knowledge-sharing between young people and leaders of the water sector, increasing the much-needed regional synergies between civil society and policymakers.

The Mediterranean region already has over **180 million people** who are considered **water poor**



*Source: MedECC*

also tackle long-standing challenges in the region, including ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and access to water supply and sanitation services for their populations.

In November that year, the UfM held a webinar seeking to build a strategy that contributes to the alleviation of youth unemployment and water scarcity by fostering youth entrepreneurship in the sector.

The UfM Water Agenda and its financial strategy provide a necessary focus and direction for policy and resources tailored to the specific needs of each UfM member state. It serves as well as a technical vehicle to promote knowledge-transfer and to facilitate the application of integrated water resource management approaches. Since its launch in 2019, the UfM Secretariat has

The webinar specifically addressed how to create jobs in the water, energy, food and ecosystems (WEFE) sectors while increasing synergies with existing organisations. In that sense, the UfM collaborated in carrying out a mapping of youth organisations in the region. This exercise highlighted that one of the main challenges faced by youth organisations is the lack of training and capacity building exchanges. For that reason, the UfM Secretariat is pursuing the creation of a Mediterranean water innovation mechanism to boost knowledge-transfer and pave the way towards a future water entrepreneurial platform.

**More on partners**

**The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)**

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency has supported the activities of the UfM Secretariat since 2017, with a total budget of more than 8 million euros.

The cooperation agreement between the two organisations aims at enhancing and amplifying the UfM Secretariat regional activities in the MENA region, in three priority areas of common interest: water, environment and the

blue economy; women empowerment; and energy and climate action.

The agreement foresees dedicated support to the UfM water agenda implemented in collaboration with the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med).

**Learn more here:**



Aiming to further address the interdependencies between WEFE sectors, in September 2021 the UfM Secretariat co-organised, together with the European Commission, PRIMA and the Cyprus Institute, a conference bringing together government representatives and more than 40 experts, where all parties agreed on the creation of a Community of Practice focused on building the capacity of Mediterranean stakeholders to operationalize adaptation, conservation and mitigation measures over WEFE resources.

Tackling another regional challenge when it comes to water management, the UfM Secretariat organised in October 2021 the EU-UfM Water Investment Policy Forum in an effort to fill the significant financing gap that exists in the Mediterranean water sector. The Forum provides an annual platform for policymakers and stakeholders to discuss how to further improve water investment policies in Southern Mediterranean countries. One of the key takeaways was the importance of further engaging with civil society in a structured and systematic way. Experience from best practices shows that stronger collabo-

**A review of job trends in the water sector**

In both the Mediterranean and the world at large, indicators show that meeting the right qualifications of select water jobs has proven to be difficult. In response to the existing **gap between youth in the Mediterranean and the labour market**, the UfM Secretariat has developed a **report** providing a review of job trends in the water sector amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and opportunities for Mediterranean youth employment. **Read the full report here:**



Read the full report of the 4<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Water Forum here:



ration between public administrations and other stakeholders leads to better and more effective water policies and investment planning decisions.

The UfM is uniquely placed to provide an all-inclusive regional platform where stakeholders, that would not have met under regular circumstances, can exchange and learn from each other. Joining forces with the *Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau* (IME) and the Energy and Water Agency of Malta, the UfM Secretariat co-organised the 4<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Water Forum, held every three years in alignment with the themes defined by the World Water Forum. Given its specificity as an intercontinental crossroads, a target region for water scarcity and a climate hotspot, the Mediterranean region is a dynamic platform to a large number of solutions and experiences on water issues that aim to be highlighted during the World Water Forum. The 4<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Water Forum outlined how the Mediterranean region is developing an integrated implementation framework through the UfM's Water Agenda, while also servicing other important political and technical regional and sub-regional frameworks, which ensure that different water management actions reinforce each other, thereby providing a comprehensive solution for evolving needs. In doing so the Forum presented the Mediterranean region's value in the development, adaptation and implementation of effective and integrated water resources management solutions. It also showcased the potential of these solutions to be replicated elsewhere as they address emerging problems on a global scale, including as a contributor to jobs, prosperity, stability and peace.

**The push towards energy savings and renewables**

The United Nations defined 2021 as the "make or break year for action on energy transition", while current trends will likely lead to a 37% increase in the region's overall energy demand by 2050. To face

today's urgent energy challenges in the Mediterranean, clean energy plays a strategic and fundamental role enabling solutions for climate change, environmental degradation, health services, post-pandemic recovery, job creation, and building behavioural change in our societies.

Sensing the urgency, the 42 UfM Member States gathered in Lisbon in June 2021 for their third Ministerial conference on energy, which resulted in a declaration aimed at raising the ambition of the region to contribute to a just and fair energy transition, supporting the inclusive recovery and tapping into all the existing opportunities through a bottom-up approach.

**Concentrated solar plants could generate 100 times the electricity needs of the MENA and EU put together.**

Source: UfM Ministerial Declaration on Energy, 2021

For instance, local authorities are in the best position to implement actions on the ground that best meet their needs. Street lighting in many places represents up to 40% of the electricity bills at a municipal level, with electricity use for lighting expected to grow about 50% in the next two decades. However, energy-efficient lighting solutions, such as LED, can help reduce demand by 40% to 60%. In the framework of the Ministerial declaration on energy, the UfM Secretariat has undertaken an exercise with the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency to analyse the potential to improve the street lighting systems efficiency of several municipalities from Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Palestine.

The role of the UfM Energy Platforms, as the main dialogue forum in the region,

was highlighted by Energy Ministers as central to achieving the priorities set in the Ministerial Declaration, such as the need to take appropriate actions to attract private investments in sustainable renewables and in energy efficiency or the role of research, innovation and

The COVID-19 pandemic has accentuated the need for sustainable urbanisation, putting further pressure on social security, health and sanitation systems, and the economic livelihood of millions.

In this framework, the UfM has developed a specific Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040 that establishes a common vision to tackle urban challenges in the region. It is the result of a three-year collaboration between the European Commission, the 42 UfM Member States and relevant partners, aiming to improve the quality of life for all citizens by creating better, more inclusive, climate-resilient communities.

The Action Plan promotes science-led, evidence-based, inclusive and integrated planning, investment and implementation of urban projects, with coordination at the local, national and regional governance levels. It involves cooperation between national and local authorities, intergovernmental organisations, international financial institutions, and other stakeholders.

The first axis of intervention that was developed for this strategy by the UfM Platform for Sustainable Urban Development is affordable and sustainable Housing. A specific action plan for this axis was developed and adopted by the Member States.

#### **Housing fit for climate challenges**

Urban activities are major contributors to the increasing emissions of greenhouse gases due to their relatively intense use of energy. Simultaneously, the rapidly growing populations in many urban areas are also the most vulnerable to the effects of climate and climate change.

In light of these interdependent realities, in 2021 the UfM Secretariat organised a series of activities on sustainable urban development including, among others:

## Street lighting in many places represents up to 40% of the electricity bills at a municipal level.

Source: The United Nations Environment Programme

digitalization in supporting the transition towards fair, inclusive, resilient and low-emissions economies and societies. The region's wealth of renewable energy sources such as sun, wind and water mean that solutions can be found for a transition to a sustainable, low-carbon energy supply. Concentrated solar plants could generate 100 times the electricity needs of the MENA and EU put together. Opportunities in the region do exist, and it is up to us to seize them and build upon them.

#### **Balancing urbanisation and sustainability**

By 2030, nearly 80% of the Mediterranean countries' population is expected to be concentrated on 10% of the land – predominantly the coastline. In light of this urgent challenge, UfM Member States convened at the 2<sup>nd</sup> UfM Ministerial on Sustainable Urban Development in 2017 in Cairo and agreed to launch the UfM Urban Agenda.

The UfM Urban Agenda aims to support the creation of more resilient and inclusive cities in the Mediterranean region, with a focus on reducing inequalities and achieving the SDGs. It covers, among other things: urban development and governance; affordable and sustainable housing; access to services; digital connectivity; and economic opportunities.

“  
There is no sustainable development without resilient and inclusive cities and communities.

—Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif,  
Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Learn more about the UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040 in this video:



#### **22 March 2021**

An online workshop “Natural cooling: an indispensable element of future-oriented housing policies and projects in hot climates” organised in collaboration with the Programme for Energy Efficiency in Buildings (PEEB) and the Cities Climate GAP Fund, on planning, designing, and financing energy-efficient, thermally adapted large-scale building projects that are well embedded in climatic conditions in the Mediterranean region.



#### **17 and 18 May 2021**

An online workshop “Living with World Heritage: Adaptive Reuse and Regeneration for Sustainable Cities” organised in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre discussed sustainable opportunities for urban regeneration in the Euro-Mediterranean region with a specific focus on historic cities.



#### **19 May 2021**

An online workshop “How to Address Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding in Urban Projects”, organised in collaboration with UN Habitat, reflected upon how urban projects should take into account coastal flooding and sea level rise, utilising adaptation measures in particular the promoting of nature-based solutions.



#### **17 June 2021**

A webinar on “Environment and Health in Seaport Cities”, organised in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, addressed environmental and health-related challenges in seaport cities, with a focus



on the consequences of port-related air, soil, noise, and water pollution on the health of inhabitants of seaport cities.

#### **27 October 2021**

A workshop on “City to city cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region: Successful practices and promising frameworks”, organised in cooperation with the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM), UNEP-MAP and Med-Cities, that promoted city-to-city cooperation and peer-learning on current challenges such as environment and climate.



### **More on partners**

#### **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is one of the five regional commissions under the jurisdiction of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It was established in order to promote economic cooperation and integration amongst its Member States.

In 2021, the UfM Secretariat co-organised two events with UNECE to promote the UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040 and its related Housing Action Plan. The Regional Workshop “Housing governance to support housing affordability” was held in Slovenia on 23-24 February 2021, and the meeting “Housing and sustainable urban development in a world marked by COVID-19 and climate change” was held in Geneva on 6 October 2021.



**Zoom on UfM projects**  
**URBAN PROJECTS FINANCE INITIATIVE (UPFI)**

The Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI) supports project promoters in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean regions as well as in the Western Balkans, helping them to prepare and to finance ambitious urban development projects, which aim to create jobs, to reduce poverty and to upgrade the urban fabric.

**How?**

**255 Million**  
urban dwellers in the region by 2025

**13**  
beneficiary countries

**€3 bn**  
of potential global investment

Around **39**  
projects identified

**Location**  
Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Jordan, Kosovo\*, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Palestine, Serbia, Tunisia

**Beneficiaries:**

- Public authorities in the targeted countries
- Public and private promoters
- General population of the urban areas where projects are implemented

The UPFI grew out of a partnership initiated and placed under the aegis of the UfM since 2011, when the organisation called on the *Agence française de développement* (AFD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) to pilot the UPFI initiative, financed by delegation of funds from the European Union. With the creation of the UPFI, the UfM launched an innovative coordination that enables several financial institutions to jointly provide technical and financial support in responding to the urban challenges of the Mediterranean.

**Discover the projects supported under the UPFI here:**



**Future-proofing food supplies**

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that an urgent system change is needed in the way we produce, process, distribute, consume, and dispose of food worldwide. Such transformation needs to consider each specific context and will inevitably involve trade-offs for countries and stakeholders. Sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems are the key to better production and consumption, better nutrition, a better environment, and ultimately a better life.

On 14 January 2021, the UfM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and

the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) aimed at accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda through food systems transformation in the Mediterranean region. The MoU comes with a detailed work plan of concrete actions, to be jointly carried out between 2021 and 2024, that will span several technical areas, such as sustainable management of land and water resources, sustainable fisheries, climate-smart and organic agriculture, food environments and healthy diets, sustainable value chain development, food loss and waste reduction, and expanding interdisciplinary collaboration in all aspects related to health care for humans, animals and the environment.

Read the full report on "Food systems transformation – Processes and pathways in the Mediterranean" here:



Photo credit: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In the framework of the 2021 UN Food System Summit, the three organisations, joined by the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), promoted three Independent Food Systems Summit Dialogues titled "Pathways for the Future of Sustainable Food Systems in the Mediterranean" on 27 April, 21 June, and 9 December, promoting the participation of regional stakeholders and representatives of UfM Member States. These dialogues focused on the specificities of food systems across the Mediterranean, connecting 300 diverse stakeholders from more than 30 countries. The main takeaways included the recognition of food systems transformation as an important entry point to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals. While solutions exist, means to implement them are also needed to achieve successful sustainable results on a large scale. Amongst other things, regional cooperation will be crucial to identify common priorities based on scientific evidence and local knowl-

edge. That is why the MoU signed in January 2021 included the development of a multi-stakeholder platform (SFS-MED Platform) to leverage the existing knowledge, experience and skills of institutions across the Mediterranean. This platform offers a forum to facilitate collaboration beyond the Summit, share a common approach to food systems transformation, mobilise funds and foster investments, capacities and innovation as a systemic response to the challenges hindering the region.

As a result of the dialogues, the three organisations also released a report titled "Food systems transformation – Processes and pathways in the Mediterranean", which takes stock of common challenges, priorities and opportunities specific to the Mediterranean context. The stocktaking exercise concludes by suggesting potential areas of collaboration between regional stakeholders and proposing possible next steps to move towards the implementation of pathways to transform agri-food systems.

