



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



## 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of the MedNC Network

*What future for NEET youth in the Mediterranean?*

Tunis, 23-25 November 2022

The Mediterranean New Chance Network, whose main objective is to contribute to the reduction of unemployment among 18-25 year olds in the Mediterranean basin, was created following a clear observation. According to the national statistical agencies of the different countries of intervention, the youth unemployment rate is alarming: 31.8% of young people aged 15 to 24 are unemployed in Morocco<sup>1</sup>, 45.3% of young people aged 20 to 24 are unemployed in Lebanon<sup>2</sup>, 20.6% of 15-24 year olds are unemployed in Portugal<sup>3</sup>, 18.9% of 18-25 year olds in France are unemployed<sup>4</sup>. This difficult situation is multifactorial: global economic and financial crisis, sovereign debt, weak recovery vs. growing demography (300 million young people will enter the labour market by 2050 in Northern Africa) but also because of high school dropout rates in the Mediterranean. To provide answers to these challenges and improve the socio-professional integration of young people in vulnerable situations on both sides of the Mediterranean the Mediterranean New Chance network was created to address a specific challenge and use an effective approach: bringing together Euro-Mediterranean actors in integration and vocational training, promoting transnational cooperation to strengthen their capacities and visibility, stimulate innovation and accelerate the scaling up of innovative and successful initiatives. To do this, in particular, unifying conferences are organized every year and represent crucial moments of exchange between all the actors of training and professional integration for NEETs<sup>5</sup> in the Mediterranean (associations, international organizations, public authorities, private sector, academic world ...).

The IV conference of the Mediterranean New Chance Network (MedNC) will take place in Tunis, Tunisia from 23 to 25 November 2022 and will be under the theme of the future of NEET youth in the Mediterranean, with a particular focus on the Tunisian situation and innovative sectors, while including the key cross-cutting themes of gender and the environment. Organized by and for young people, this event will identify the challenges and highlight the opportunities and solutions related to the integration of NEETs in the Mediterranean in the face of the challenges of tomorrow's world. This conference will also be under the aegis of the Tunisian Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training.

In line with its actions to strengthen regional cooperation, dialogue and implement projects with a tangible impact on young people, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is co-organising the conference. The MedNC network has not only been labelled by the UfM since 2014, but receives continuous support from this institution which shares common convictions on the urgency of acting in favour of the employability of the most vulnerable in the sub-region.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: High Commission for Planning, Kingdom of Morocco [https://www.hcp.ma/Taux-de-chomage-annuel-au-niveau-national-selon-les-tranches-d-age\\_a3005.html](https://www.hcp.ma/Taux-de-chomage-annuel-au-niveau-national-selon-les-tranches-d-age_a3005.html)

<sup>2</sup> Spring: Central Administration of Statistics, Republic of Lebanon <http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php/demographic-and-social-en/laborforce-en>

<sup>3</sup> Source: Instituto Nacional Estatística, Portugal [https://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine\\_indicadores&contecto=pi&indOcorrCod=0010704&selTab=tab0](https://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine_indicadores&contecto=pi&indOcorrCod=0010704&selTab=tab0)

<sup>4</sup> Source: National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) [https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2489498#figure1\\_radio4](https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2489498#figure1_radio4)

<sup>5</sup> Young people "Not in Education, Employment, or Training".



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The general objective of the MedNC conference in Tunis is to create synergies between the actors of professional integration to find concrete solutions promoting the integration of NEETs in the Mediterranean. Specifically, these 3 days of conferences will be an opportunity to:

- Internally: encourage the sharing of good practices between the members of the network, identify new innovative and convincing integration mechanisms, and finally, work and decide on the strategic orientations of the MedNC network;
- Externally: promote exchanges between training and professional integration actors in the Mediterranean, promote Tunisian systems to international actors, demonstrate the ability of the MedNC network to support the development of solutions in Tunisia and position the network as a unifying and essential player in the Mediterranean basin.

The UfM Ministerial Meeting held in May 2022 in Marrakesh was an opportunity for its members to commit to addressing employment and employability challenges by focusing in particular on young people who are not in employment, education or training and by defining a joint action plan on both sides of the Mediterranean that will take into account innovative solutions for the integration of NEETs, which is the main topic of the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of the MedNC network. Regarding UfM's commitment to tackle the issue of NEETs in the Mediterranean, its Secretary General, Nasser Kamel, said: *"we cannot talk about opportunities for the southern and eastern Mediterranean without tackling jobs and skill gaps in the region and consolidating our labour markets. This is where the UfM Secretariat is actively engaged, mobilising its ecosystem and drawing on its expertise as a platform for dialogue and projects on the ground."*

The program of the "Official Day" can be found below.



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Thursday, November 24, 2022 - **OFFICIAL DAY**

Thursday, November 24 - morning  
**OFFICIAL DAY**

**9:00 am: Welcome from the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training**

**9-10 am: Opening ceremony**

**10:30 am: Opening speech, A. Béguin**

**10:45 - 12:15: The integration of young NEET in the Mediterranean and Tunisia: issues and perspectives**

Panel of guests and plenary discussions with the objective of presenting the challenges of the integration of young NEETs in the Mediterranean and the raison d'être of the MedNC network.

Presentation of the New Chance program in Tunisia by MedNC experts.

**12h30-14h: Buffet lunch + networking**

**14h- 15h: New sectors and new challenges for the integration of young people: digital, heritage, entrepreneurship, environment.**

Second round-table in plenary with the objective of presenting the challenges of new sectors to facilitate the integration of young people and highlight the expertise and actions of MedNC members on these topics.

**15:15: Broadcasting of the Youth Exchange video**

**15h30: Closing speech of the Tunisian Ministry of Employment**

15h30-17h

**MATCH MEETING - FIND YOUR EXPERT**

Several partners present their activities around different stands. Each participant is invited to meet and exchange with the partners present.

This activity aims at creating synergies between the different members and partners of the MedNC network.