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Are you **between 18 and 29 years old**? Are you a national of one of the [Union of the Mediterranean – UfM Member States](#)? This is your chance to apply to **the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Mediterranean Youth Academy** to be held **from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of November in Barcelona, Spain**.

The 3rd edition of the Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA will be co-organized by the Union for The Mediterranean – UfM and the Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development – MYF with the support of the German Development Cooperation. The program aims at promoting awareness and involving youth in response to Mediterranean issues and challenges: specifically, Climate Change & Climate Justice, Social Inclusion, and Youth Employment.

The call for application will be closed on **31/05/2023 at 23:59h (CEST)**. Applications received after the deadline will be automatically rejected.

These guidelines detail the context and scope of the 3rd edition of the Mediterranean Youth Academy, its objectives and priorities, the eligibility and evaluation criteria for applicants, and the application process.

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## About MYA

The Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA seeks to qualify and prepare young people from the Euro-Mediterranean region using non-formal education as a tool for providing Mediterranean youth with relevant and needed skills to face the specific issues and challenges widely felt in the Euro-Mediterranean region. By doing so, the initiative aims at promoting awareness and empowering youth as active role players in the decision and policy-making processes.

### MYA mission and goals:

- Qualify and prepare selected young applicants from the Euro-Mediterranean area through interactive, bottom-up training programs focused on issues that are relevant to the region.
- Engage participants in proposing recommendations to policymakers on key topics, as well as in proposing relevant initiatives to possibly be implemented in the Mediterranean region.
- Enhance youth participation to achieve active engagement in the decision and policy-making processes.
- Build the capacity of youth to keep pace with development and enable them to face global technological, environmental, and social challenges.
- Contribute to achieving and promoting SDGs 4,5,6,8,10,13,16, and 17.
- Opening a dialogue platform between youth and decision-makers and working on innovative and sustainable solutions and recommendations to improve the economies and societies of the Mediterranean region.

## Objectives of the 3rd edition of the MYA

After two successful editions held in Egypt, **the third edition of the MYA** will be held in **Barcelona, Spain**. The initiative is co-organized by Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development – MYF and the Union for the Mediterranean with the support of the German Development Cooperation.

This edition will be delivered in the format of a four-day training program aiming at enhancing the participants' skills and facilitating their active role in the decision and policy-making processes related to the three specific MYA Thematic Clusters: **Climate Change & Climate Justice, Social Inclusion, and Youth Employment**. The objectives of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the MYA are:

1. Engage up to 120 young people in proposing recommendations to policymakers on the key topics that will be discussed during the workshops.
2. Facilitate the identification of 3-5 youth-related initiatives to emerge during the MYA workshops with a bottom-up approach. These selected initiatives will eventually receive, at a further stage, implementation support by the Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development – MYF.
3. Contribute to the drafting of the “Initiatives for the Mediterranean” guidebook to be produced by MYF. The guidebook will provide insights into how youth-led initiatives can contribute to addressing issues widely felt in the Euro-Mediterranean region and discussed during the MYA, such as climate change, social inclusion, and youth employment.



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- **Dates of the event:** from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023
- **Where:** Barcelona – Spain

### The objective of this call

The objective of this Call for Applications is to select:

- up to 50 participants from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, and Türkiye.
- up to 30 participants from the other UfM Member States<sup>1</sup>.

### Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for this call for application, applicants must:

- Be between 18 and 29 years old by the time of the application submission.
- Be nationals of one of the UfM Member States.
- By the time of the application submission, have a valid travel document.
- Have the availability to follow the MYA for the full four days (6-9 November 2023).
- Have an Intermediate level of English.
- Have previous knowledge or experience in one or more of the three MYA Thematic Clusters<sup>2</sup>.

### What's in for selected applicants?

Successful applicants from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, and Türkiye

Up to 50 successful applicants from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, and Türkiye, as detailed in these guidelines, will benefit from the full coverage of all the costs related to their participation, including travel, accommodation, and boarding.

Unless otherwise specified, all the costs will be directly managed by a booking agency and no reimbursement is foreseen for purchases made by participants.

Successful applicants from the other UfM Member States

According to the availability of funds, up to 30 successful applicants from the other UfM Member States not specified above in this document may be required to cover the costs related to their participation.

<sup>1</sup> The comprehensive list of all eligible countries is available on the [UfM website](#).

<sup>2</sup> Namely, Climate Change & Climate Justice, Social Inclusion, Youth Employment



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### All successful applicants from each UfM Member State

All successful applicants, whether eligible for the full coverage of the costs or not, will not pay any participation fee to join the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the MYA. Furthermore, they will have access to all the material and to the catering available at the event's venue.

In addition, all participants in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the MYA will be invited to the High-Level event for the Launch of the UfM Youth Action Plan to be held on November 9<sup>th</sup> in Barcelona – Spain.

### Application process

To apply to this call, it is mandatory to fill out the [application form](#) in English. The online form includes the following:

1. Application Form: to be completed with personal and professional information about the applicant in addition to the motivation to join MYA and any further relevant information.
2. Mandatory attachment:
  - a. Copy of a valid travel document.
3. Optional attachments:
  - a. Articles/essays/thesis related drafted by the applicant and related to one or more MYA Thematic Clusters
  - b. Any attendance or completion certificate related to education/training related to one or more MYA Thematic Cluster.
  - c. CEFR English certificate with at least a B2 level<sup>3</sup>.

All documents must be attached in PDF format.

Interested candidates must submit the applications and their attachments before **31/05/2023 at 23:59h (CEST)**.

To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the co-organizers cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants and the action. No individual replies will be given to questions. All questions and answers, as well as other important notices to applicants during the evaluation procedure will be published on the UfM [website](#) as the need arises.

<sup>3</sup> The list of the accepted certificates is as follows:

- **TOEFL**: minimum score of 83 for the Internet-based test.
- **University of Cambridge**: minimum score of 176 in the First Certificate in English (grade A or B), Certificate in Advanced English, Certificate of Proficiency in English or the Linguaskill online test.
- **IELTS**: minimum score of 6.5 in the Academic or General Training version.
- **Duolingo English Test**: minimum score of 105.
- School of Modern Languages (EIM) of the **Official certificates issued by a public university**: B2 level or higher, either taking the online English accreditation test or other exam formats.



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## Evaluation and selection process

The submitted applications will be screened by an Evaluation Committee composed of members of the Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development – MYF.

Specific selection criteria have been established to develop a clear, non-discriminatory, non-prejudicial, and fair-competition evaluation process. The selection procedure will be based on an evaluation of the following criteria:

- Relevance
- Consistency
- Motivation and interest
- Previous knowledge related to the MYA thematic clusters.

### Step 1: OPENING & ADMINISTRATIVE CHECKS

During the opening and administrative check, the following criteria are assessed:

- Date of receipt of application. If the stated application deadline is not met, the application is automatically rejected.
- Completion of the application. If the application form is not filled out in all its parts and/or if the required documents are not uploaded to the application, the application is automatically rejected.
- Applications will be automatically rejected if applicants:
  - are not between 18-29 years old by the time of the application submission.
  - and/or if they are not from one of the UfM Member States.
  - and/or if they don't have a valid travel document by the time of the application submission.
  - and/or if they don't have an intermediate level of English.
  - and/or if they don't have availability to follow the full 4 days of MYA.

### Step 2: EVALUATION OF THE APPLICATION

Within step 2, evaluators will consider only the applications that comply with the eligibility criteria. The quality and relevance of the proposals will be evaluated using a 100-point scoring system and considering two types of evaluation criteria: selection and inclusive award criteria. The selection criteria evaluate the applicant's motivations and interest in participating in the 3rd edition of the MYA:

- A well-described motivation for participating in the 3rd edition of the MYA and realistic learning expectations – up to 80/100 points.
- Knowledge and interest of the applicant in the Mediterranean region in general and in one or more MYA Thematic clusters – up to 18 points.



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In the case of applications which may gain the exact same score, up to 2 extra points must be given to applicants who have not participated in previous editions of the MYA.

**Gender balance** will be a transversal approach to be used in the whole evaluation process to ideally achieve at least a 40% representation of female participants in the 3rd edition of the Mediterranean Youth Academy.

All these criteria cover the relevance of the applicant, the consistency with the objectives of the call for proposals, the quality of the applicants' interests and motivations.

A maximum total of 150 applicants will be invited to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of the evaluation process which includes online interviews.

### Step 3: ONLINE INTERVIEW

Only pre-selected applicants that successfully pass step 2 on the evaluation process will be invited to a short online interview to be held between June and July 2023.

The performance of pre-selected applicants during the online interview will be added to the score assigned during step 2 of the evaluation process. During the online interview, candidates will be evaluated according to the following evaluation grid:

<b>6. Online Interview evaluation grid</b>	
6.1 The presentation of the motivations for attending the MYA is consistent with the submitted written application	Up to 10 points
6.2 The interest of the candidate in the Mediterranean region is concretely clearly explained	Up to 10 points
6.3 The applicant has a clear idea of what he/she wanted to benefit from by participating in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition of the MYA.	Up to 10 points
6.4 The applicant explained in a clear and impactful way his/her interest and/or previous knowledge in at least one of the thematic clusters of the MYA	Up to 10 points
6.5 The applicant has an adequate level of English?	Up to 10 points
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>Max. 50 points</b>



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## Notification of the results

Following a final assessment of the application eligibility and consistency and the clarification of any doubts that may have arisen during the evaluation process, applicants will be notified of the provisional results of the selection process no later than 3 months prior to the MYA.

Any requests for clarification or complaints against the selection process must be submitted by the concerned applicant to [mya@myfmed.org](mailto:mya@myfmed.org) within 5 calendar days after the announcement of the call's results. The email should indicate the full name of the applicant, the object of the complaint, and evidence of the alleged breach. Complaints will be examined by the Evaluation Committee based on the information provided, which will inform the applicant of the decision taken within the following 15 calendar days.

## Signature of the commitment letter to attend the MYA

Selected applicants will each sign a letter with the Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development – MYF committing to fully attend the four-day MYA. Selected applicants who will not fully join the initiative and that will not be able to give a valid and certified reason will be asked to refund possible costs related to their participation that would have already been incurred (i.e., flight tickets).