

Study on “Green innovation and employability in the Med through the triple helix”

commissioned by
UfM, Union for the Mediterranean



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produced by
UNIMED, Mediterranean Universities Union



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→ About the study

The current study aims to mapping and assessing the existing policies and instruments that facilitate access to employment of graduates and researchers in the Mediterranean region, highlighting how they could support the development of a sustainable economy through innovation and employability, by supporting regional dialogue on the topic (as it reads on the tender). Based on the thorough study, integrating desk research with interviews and focus groups as well as by organising one roundtable in each of the target countries with relevant stakeholders, a set of usable recommendations for the UfM, will be formulated. The aim is to support UfM in analysing and evaluating strategies, policies, programmes, and key projects in three pilot Med countries by assessing their socio-economic impact, gaps, and bottlenecks on innovating the economies and facilitating employment of young graduates, with the ultimate goal of supporting the shift towards sustainability through the triple helix model of innovation. For the purpose of the study, three pilot countries, based on a subregional balance, are the target for the research activities: Italy, Jordan and Tunisia.

The Study is in line:

- With the conclusions set by the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Higher Education and Scientific Research (Cairo, 2007);
- With the Ministerial Declaration of the UfM Employment and Labour Ministers (Cascais, 2019);
- As well as with the recommendations of the Joint Communication “Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighborhood: A new Agenda for the Mediterranean” (2021), supporting skills development and the employability of researchers and students of the region are key priorities of the UfM.
- With the Ministerial Conference on Research and Innovation 2022 (R&I Ministers from the 42 countries of UfM met for the first time to discuss ways to promote scientific cooperation on climate change, renewable energy and health)
- With the UfM Forum on Green Innovation and Careers for Empowering the Mediterranean Youth: Triple Helix in Action, event supported by GIZ, and hosted in the major ESCWA Conference “Arab SMEs Summit: Opportunities Beyond Borders”, held in Amman 30 October-1 November 2022

→ The approach of the Study

The Triple Helix Model of Innovation offers a framework that brings together three spheres that traditionally operate separately (university, industry, and government). It theorizes that in a knowledge economy, boundaries between the different spheres are fading and interaction between them – around knowledge exchange and production – flows dynamically in all directions and creates an innovative environment.

→ Objective of the RoundTable

In cooperation with the relevant UfM National Focal Points of the UfM R&I Platform, three roundtables, one per each target country, with at least 25 participants are organised.

The main objectives of the roundtable are the following:

- with the goal of validating the preliminary results achieved in the desk research;
- to validate the results from the interviews and focus groups and;
- provide content and inputs to complement the analysis;
- to eventually add other dimensions of the analysis which did not stem out from the previous work;
- to ensure a further qualitative insight from a carefully selected group of stakeholders (from the stakeholders' map and according to the suggestions of the national steering committee), targeting academics, enterprises, industry and government representatives.

The participants will be asked to share insights, reflections and needs on the topics tackled by the study and to give inputs for the development of the recommendations.

→ Topics to be explored in the RoundTable

According to what stated in the tender document and along with UNIMED proposal, the main goal of the study is to overcome the gaps between academia and business, assessing their impact, collecting information on gaps and potential, and defining useful feedback in partnership with pilot countries.

The roundtable could focus on the selected topics of the current study based on the country needs and future challenges:

- The complexity of the relationships between youth unemployment, quality of training and the uptake of the green economy;
 - Raising awareness about the importance of sustainable development choices which is constantly growing among the population, thus making sustainable practices an absolute political priority;
 - Three R&I agenda endorsed by the June 2022 Ministerial Declaration: Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Health;
 - Improving the growth of companies operating in the green economy area, both in terms of production, of consultancy and of design capabilities, in order to create the conditions for the increase of the number of green jobs;
 - Adapting the training and education systems in the target countries by reviewing curricula and teaching methodologies to match these with new employment opportunities and with the needs of the labour market;
- Further and other sub-topics could be added to the list.

RoundTable

**“Green innovation and employability in the Med
through the triple helix”**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

6 June 2023 in Rome (Italy)

8 June 2023 in Amman (Jordan)

6 July 2023 in Tunis (Tunisia) - TBC

Date of the RoundTable Venue Time: 9:00 AM – 13.00	
09:00 AM- 09:30AM	Arrival and registration of participants
9:30 AM- 10:00AM	Opening Session/Welcoming Remarks Chair: National focal point for the UfM Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the hosted country • UfM Deputy Secretary General, S.E. Alvaro Albacete • UNIMED Director, Mr. Marcello Scalisi
10:00 AM- 10:15AM	Setting the scene by UfM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UfM Project Manager, Research and Higher Education at UfM, Giuseppe Provenzano
10:15 AM- 10:30AM	Overview about the study. State of the art based on desk research and interviews: preliminary findings by UNIMED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNIMED Project Manager, Silvia Marchionne
10:30AM- 11:30 PM	Session I. Towards innovation and employability in a green society: complexity of the relationships between youth unemployment, quality of training and the uptake of the green economy Chair: to be identified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative from higher education institution/university • Representative industry sector • Representative from the HE Ministry
11:30 AM- 11:45 AM	<i>Break</i>
11:45 AM- 12:45 PM	Session II. Raising awareness about the importance of sustainable development choices: joint efforts by university, industry and government Chair: to be identified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative from higher education institution/university • Representative industry sector • Representative from the HE Ministry
12:45 PM- 13:30 PM	<i>Open debate, next steps & conclusions</i>

→ GANTT Chart of the Study

Green innovation and employability in the Med through the triple helix													
nov-	dic-	gen-	feb-	mar-	apr-	mag-	giu-	lug-	ago-	set-	ott-		
Y1												WP	
M 1	M 2	M3	M4	M 5	M 6	M 7	M 8	M 9	M 10	M 11	M 12		
WP1 Study on Green Innovation													
												T1.1	Finalisation of the study proposal
												T1.2	Mapping of existing information sources through desk research : international projects, reports, studies, strategies, ongoing initiatives including public financial instruments in support of the greening of the economy and of fighting unemployment.
												T1.3	Selection of information items and analysis
												T1.4	Field work and roundtables + SWOT analysis + recommendations
												n.	DELIVERABLES
												1	Final study proposal
												2	Interim report
												3	Final report
M 1	M 2	M3	M4	M 5	M 6	M 7	M 8	M 9	M 10	M 11	M 12	Ref.	DEVELOPMENT
												WP2	Follow-up Conference «Green innovation Forum» hold in Jordan in October 2022
												T2.1	Workshop half-day in the framework of the UNIMED General Assembly in Spain (Granada) foreseen in mid-March 2023 as follow-up of the regional conference hold in October 2022
												T2.2	Workshop in collaboration with the UNIMED SubNetwork in Employability in Tunisia (in June 2023 TBD)
												n.	DELIVERABLES
												1	Granada Workshop report
												2	Tunis Workshop report
M 1	M 2	M3	M4	M 5	M 6	M 7	M 8	M 9	M 10	M 11	M 12	Ref.	DEVELOPMENT
												WP3	Digital presentation event
												T3.1	Preparation of the digital event
												T3.2	Deployment of the digital event
												T3.3	Follow up campaign
												n.	DELIVERABLES
												1	Digital event report (agenda, participants list etc)
												2	Follow up campaign report

→ Working Team and Expert Board

Project manager at the Union for the Mediterranean: Giuseppe Provenzano

Principal Coordinator: Silvia Marchionne, UNIMED

Experts on Employability, Innovation and sustainable development: Raniero Chelli, Silvia Marchionne, UNIMED

Administrative and financial support: Orlando Luca

Internal UNIMED Board: Marcello Scalisi, Wael Benjelloun, Hmaid Ben Aziza

In order to guarantee access to the local institutions and stakeholders, UNIMED will mobilize its members in the respective target countries as well as international experts.

National Focal Point in Italy: Marilena Rossano, CNR

National Focal Point in Jordan: Hussam Khasawneh, HCST

National Focal Point in Tunisia: Hayet Souai, Saida Rafrafi, MESRS