BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT MEDITERRANEAN
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About Us

What is the Union for the Mediterranean?
The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is an intergovernmental organisation that brings together 43 countries to enhance regional cooperation and dialogue through the implementation of concrete projects and initiatives addressing inclusive and sustainable development, stability and integration in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

As a direct continuation of the Barcelona Process, the launch of the UfM in July 2008 was a true reflection of its Member States’ shared political commitment to enhance the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

43 Members
- Albania / Algeria / Austria / Belgium / Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bulgaria / Croatia / Cyprus / Czech Republic / Denmark / Egypt / Estonia / Finland / France / Germany / Greece / Hungary / Ireland / Israel / Italy / Jordan / Latvia / Lebanon / Lithuania / Luxembourg / Malta / Mauritania / Morocco / Montenegro / Netherlands / North Macedonia / Palestine / Poland / Portugal / Romania / Slovakia / Slovenia / Spain / Sweden / Syria* / Tunisia / Turkey

*Syria suspended its membership in December 2011 | Libya has an observer status

UfM Senior Officials
The Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean meet on a regular basis at the level of Senior Officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs. The Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) provide the framework to discuss the current regional context, coordinate the work of the UfM Secretariat and endorse new development projects to which the UfM label is given.

2 Co-Presidents
The EU and Jordan have assumed the Northern and Southern co-presidency since 2012, embodying the UfM principle of co-ownership.

1 Secretariat
Established in 2010 in Barcelona, the UfM Secretariat is the first permanent structure dedicated to the implementation of this partnership. It ensures operational follow-up of the regional priorities and supports the implementation of region-wide cooperation projects and initiatives.

How does the UfM operationalize its mandate? The 3P’s Methodology

- **Policy**
  - Building common thematic agendas
  - Ministerial Conferences
    - to define the priorities of the UfM through the adoption of common regional agendas in key strategic areas.
    - +35 ministerial meetings that gather over 8000 stakeholders per year as a fundamental tool to exchange on the effective implementation of ministerial mandates, identify best practices and promote concrete projects and initiatives on the ground.

- **Platforms**
  - Fostering regional dialogue
  - Experts’ fora
    - that gather over 8000 stakeholders per year as a fundamental tool to exchange on the effective implementation of ministerial mandates, identify best practices and promote concrete projects and initiatives on the ground.

- **Projects**
  - Translating the policy dimension into tangible impact
  - UfM label
    - that provides support to projects through technical expertise and networking opportunities with a view to scaling them up at the regional level.

The added value of the UfM lies in the interrelation created between the policy dimension and its operational translation into concrete projects on the ground. The UfM Secretariat currently supports +65 regional cooperation projects valued at over €5.5 billion.

Regional Integration
- Energy & Climate Action
- Transport & Urban Development
- Knowledge, Development & Research
- Social & Civil Affairs

Regional Stability
- Economic Development & Employment
- Sustainable Development
- 47% of the labelled projects

Inclusive Development
- 53% of the labelled projects

60+ labelled projects

To date
- +60 labelled projects
- +35 UfM sectoral Ministerial Meetings
- 25th Anniversary of the Barcelona Process and a Renewed post-2020 Mediterranean agenda
- Launch of the UfM Grant Schemes for Employment
- Annual UfM Regional Fora with UfM Ministers of Foreign Affairs
- Launch of the UfM Grant Schemes for Employment
A renewed post-2020 Mediterranean agenda

The scope and scale of the challenges faced by the Euro-Mediterranean region require to be addressed through a comprehensive, balanced and concerted approach. Regional frameworks such as the UfM are becoming increasingly pivotal to foster effective cooperation, especially in one of the least integrated regions in the world.

UfM activities tackle the main strategic objectives of the region – regional integration, development and stability – by concentrating efforts on fostering inclusive and sustainable development.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of UfM Member States adopted, at the occasion of the 2nd UfM Regional Forum in Barcelona in 2017, a Roadmap for action to strengthen regional cooperation in the Mediterranean and implement a positive agenda for the region, capitalising on its immense untapped potential, and particularly its youth.

Building integrated, inclusive and sustainable post-pandemic societies: five renewed priorities for the UfM

In November 2020, on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Barcelona Process, UfM Member States recognised the need to prioritise, in the years to come, five areas of action where the UfM can play a crucial role and provide for comparative advantages towards a sustainable post-pandemic recovery, paving the way for the creation of more resilient societies and economies in the region.

Starting in 2021, the UfM has focused its work on the following areas:

- Environmental and Climate Action
- Social Inclusiveness and Equality
- Digital Transformation
- Civil Protection
- Sustainable and Inclusive Economic and Human Development

Particular attention is given to promoting sustainable, green, low-carbon and circular resource-efficient economies, and reversing the dramatic loss of biodiversity in the Mediterranean region.

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The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic enjoys high levels of political support. The UfM has further highlighted the need to build stronger regional civil protection mechanisms and networks, which will benefit not only countries on a national level but also as a region through resource and knowledge sharing.

The EU renewed agenda for the Mediterranean

Following consultations with the Southern Mediterranean countries to relaunch and strengthen their strategic partnership, and in close consultation with the UfM, the EU adopted in February 2021 an ambitious and innovative new Agenda for the Mediterranean.

The Agenda aims to join forces in fighting climate change and speeding up the green and digital transitions, to renew the commitment to shared values, to jointly address forced displacement and migration, and to promote peace and security in the Mediterranean region.

The new EU Agenda coincides importantly with the five priority areas of action laid out by UfM Member States in 2020, and will contribute to addressing the pressing challenges faced in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The Agenda further underlines the EU’s renewed confidence in the UfM’s role in enhancing regional cooperation, and as a privileged dialogue forum for its 43 Member States.

The Agenda includes a dedicated Economic and Investment Plan to spur the long-term socio-economic recovery in the Southern Mediterranean. Under the new EU’s Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), up to €7 billion for the 2021-2027 period would be allocated to its implementation, which could mobilise up to €30 billion in private and public investment in the region in the next decade.

In a digital, global and hyper-connected world, integrating new technologies into businesses and education systems is no longer a matter of choice, in order to keep up and adapt to innovation and competition. This tendency has been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has shown the divide existing in the Euro-Mediterranean region in terms of digital access and digital use. The UfM strives to use digitalisation to enhance a smart, innovative and sustainable economic development, which will also facilitate trade interlinkages in the region and could become an essential tool to tackle youth unemployment in the last few years, cooperation among UfM Member States in civil protection enjoys high levels of political support. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the need to build stronger regional civil protection mechanisms and networks, which will benefit not only countries on a national level but also as a region through resource and knowledge sharing.

Leaving no one behind continues to be a priority for UfM member states to guarantee an inclusive socio-economic development. The agenda is dedicated to improving the liveability of the region and a fair distribution of its benefits. In line with the SDGs, it places a particular emphasis on gender equality, young people, and women. The Agenda aims to promote peace and security in the Mediterranean region, and implement a positive agenda for the region, capitalising on its immense untapped potential, and particularly its youth.
Stories of Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation

From 66 to 25,000 empowered women: the multiplying effect of training programmes

Lina Khalifeh is among the 66 women from the southern Mediterranean who took part in the UfM-labelled project Women of the Mediterranean: The Next Generation of Leaders (WOMED), which provides training programmes in leadership and gender equality to women aged between 25-35.

Following her participation in the programme, Lina, a black belt in Taekwondo, founded SheFighter, the first self-defense studio of its kind in the Middle East. Lina has so far empowered 25,000 women through martial arts training and has received many distinctions, including the United Nations Women in Business Award.

The importance of human connections in civil protection

A former top-level track and field athlete, Captain Laurent Alfonso is a French professional fire officer. His long career has sent him to almost all corners of the world to provide training, support or participate in major rescue operations, creating bonds and human connections along the way.

As an EU Civil Protection expert, Captain Alfonso insists that when it comes to civil security and protection, the most important factor is always the human factor. In his own words, the COVID-19 pandemic showed that it was, for instance, the collective intelligence and solidarity that prevailed.

Since February 2022, Captain Laurent Alfonso is seconded by the Government of France to the Union for the Mediterranean to support the creation of Euro-Mediterranean platforms and working tools on civil protection.

A partnership to support climate mitigation and adaptation efforts in the Mediterranean

The UfM and the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) have united their efforts to support the Mediterranean countries and regional partners in addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

The partnership has a special focus on providing new tools for mitigation and adaptation to all stakeholders in the region. To make these tools and valuable data accessible to as many institutions as possible, the UfM and ECMWF are collaborating to implement Copernicus Services like the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).

This collaborating has resulted in the creation of two Apps, specifically addressing high-priority topics in the Mediterranean region.

The first application focuses on the impact of sea level rise on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites located in the Mediterranean Basin, while the second App is designed for the health sector, with a specific focus on the impact of climate change on the suitability of Mediterranean habitats for air-borne vectors of disease.

The maintenance of healthy forested landscapes is essential for reducing the impacts of climate change

The Mediterranean region holds over 80 million hectares of degraded land. More than 400,000 hectares of forests are burned each year, and at least 16 animal and plant species in Mediterranean forests are at risk of extinction, due to environmental threats such as climate change. Forests play a key role in providing and protecting ecosystem services and biodiversity. The maintenance of healthy forested landscapes is essential for reducing the impacts of climate change.

With a total budget of 1,850,000 euros over a 4-year period, the project “Scaling up forest and landscape restoration”, promoted by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), is building regional and national capacity for the implementation of large-scale Forest and Landscape Restoration programmes.

Women challenging disability in the Mediterranean

Patricia and Jahda live on opposite sides of the Mediterranean but share the same fight: ensuring that people living with disabilities can enjoy a dignified and financially independent life. From Spain to Lebanon, both are firm believers in the need for enhanced regional cooperation to ensure social inclusion and economic empowerment for all.

Lina Khalifeh has so far empowered 25,000 women through martial arts.

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The Mediterranean region has one of the highest rates of unemployment in the world, and is the least integrated economically. In this context, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is engaged in the implementation of specific projects and initiatives focused on the development of businesses, trade facilitation, employment opportunities and employability skills. There is a particular emphasis on youth and women, thus addressing cross-cutting issues such as the promotion of women’s socio-economic empowerment and the enhancement of youth employability. Particular attention is devoted to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), vectors for innovation and economic growth in the Mediterranean region.

Priorities

- Foster job creation and support the development of SMEs through the UfM Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4Jobs)
- Support creative industries, digital economy and social and solidarity economy in the region
- Develop a strategy for private sector development, advancing industrial cooperation, trade and investments in the region

80% of jobs are created by SMEs in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Source: ILO Report on SMEs and employment creation.

by 2050 more than 300 million young people will be entering the job market in MENA region. Source: World Bank, 2019.

Trade flow distribution in the Euro-Mediterranean region indicates that 90% happen within the EU while only 1% of trade flows are made among the Southern Mediterranean neighbours. Source: UfM-OECD Regional Integration Report, 2021.

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With the UfM Grant Scheme for employment promotion, the organisation is actively supporting non-profit organisations in the Mediterranean that work to create job opportunities in view of the COVID-19-induced economic crisis.

Launch in August 2020 to respond to the employment crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic with the financial support of the German Development Cooperation.

4 region-wide projects benefiting 18,000 individuals in 7 UfM Member States - Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia.

Fields of entrepreneurship, women empowerment, sustainable tourism, as well as education and research.

Overall budget of €1.13 million.

In order to inform policy-making, the UfM seeks to monitor trends in regional integration over time, assess progress made, and identify areas for improvement. To that end, the UfM Secretariat commissioned the OECD to prepare the first Progress Report on Regional Integration, completed in 2021.

The report shows that integration has advanced in the UfM region, but progress has been slow and remains below its potential in terms of capacities and resources. The report highlights two important challenges that still stand: inadequate infrastructure for transport and energy connectivity, and a lack of common vision on human mobility as a driver of innovation and growth in the region.  

More projects at www.ufmsecretariat.org
**Social & Civil Affairs**

ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/social-civil-affairs

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**Priorities**

- **Build and consolidate a regional common agenda to empower youth and women as main drivers for the region’s development and stability.**
- **Promote a Euro-Mediterranean dialogue and cooperation in the field of civil protection, in view of better prevention, preparedness, response and recovery in the face of natural and man-made catastrophes.**

Youth and women constitute a huge resource as agents for change and the future of each country’s development. They are and can be a source of creativity and innovation, if an enabling environment is provided to facilitate their full participation and engagement. Their role in creating jobs, preventing climate change, addressing community needs or providing mediation services is everywhere demonstrated.

The focus on human and inclusive development, through youth and women empowerment, as a main contribution to addressing the root causes of the current challenges faced by the Euro-Mediterranean region is at the heart of the UfM strategy. But inclusive development also means looking out for persons with disabilities, who face pervasive inequalities and discriminations in the enjoyment of all their economic and social rights, such as their right to education, employment, social protection or health.

Last but not least, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the need to build stronger regional civil protection services and networks, to better protect citizens in the face of increasing catastrophes. Since 2019, the UfM and the European Commission have worked hand in hand to develop an action plan for strengthened Euro-Mediterranean cooperation on prevention campaigns, emergency response and crisis management.

The UfM action and strategies for social and civil affairs have been progressively built and structured over the past years in close coordination with the UfM Member States and with the involvement of key stakeholders operating in the region, notably the civil society.

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**Political framework**

Check out the complete list of Ministerial conferences and declarations on Strengthening the role of women in society:

**Regional dialogue platforms**

Discover the work of the UfM Regional dialogue platforms on areas such as Women empowerment, youth and civil protection:

**Zoom on Key Projects & Initiatives**

Promoting women empowerment for inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the MENA region

This project aims at enhancing women’s economic inclusion by harnessing the great potential of women entrepreneurs in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia and create the conditions for a sustainable and inclusive growth. Labelled by the UfM with a total budget of €4.5 million, the project is promoted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and constitutes the first regional best practice with an integrated approach to support women entrepreneurship.

First-ever Intergovernmental Monitoring Mechanism on Gender Equality in the Euro–Mediterranean Region

The UfM launched the first-ever Intergovernmental Monitoring Mechanism on Gender Equality, conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic and published in March 2022, showing the impact this crisis had on women. This ongoing reporting exercise allows for measuring and reporting the progress made on women’s rights and provides policy recommendations to close the gender gap in the region.

Check out the report’s findings here:

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**Closing the gender gap in the region could potentially add 47 percent to the GDP GROWTH by 2025**

Source: World Bank 2019

**50% of the population in the south Mediterranean countries is under 25 years old compared to 27.8% in the EU**

Source: UfM Regional Progress Report on Gender Equality, 2021

**Comparing to the global average, Europe and the MENA region are below the 6.2% global percentage of women entrepreneurs who own a business (3.3% and 4.5% respectively)**

Source: Word Bank 2019

Source: Eurostat; CIA World Factbook

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**NOORA ABDEEN KHALIFEH**

Women in business: Building on the past to create a resilient future

Women are partners to one another and with such partnership, collaboration and exchange of culture and experiences, we can aim so high and shine in the fashion industry and the business world.

Discover the entrepreneurial adventure of the Palestinian designer here.

More projects at www.ufmsecretariat.org
Regional cooperation efforts in the fields of higher education, research, and innovation, as well as vocational training and mobility play an essential role in achieving a positive agenda for youth in the Mediterranean due to their potential on increasing employability, promoting intercultural dialogue, deepening social cohesion, and preventing extremism. The collaboration with the UfM Member States to properly implement and expand in the region the Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe programs - especially the Mediterranean Initiative - are key political objectives.

The activities of the UfM in the area of Higher Education and Research also aim as well to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, SDG 8.6 - Reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (NEETs), and SDGs where research and innovation play a crucial role.

Higher Education & Research

ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/higher-education-research

32% of enterprises in some Southern Mediterranean countries have identified skill shortages as a major constraint to hiring

Source: UNDP Arab Knowledge Report

Young people not enrolled in education, employment or training (“NEETs”) is a growing concern in the region, with national rates ranging from 14% to 32% for the 15-24 age group

Source: Eurofound 2018

1/4 Higher education graduates in North Africa are unemployed


Priorities

- Speeding up regional processes of Higher Education Internationalisation, especially through the Erasmus+ program.
- Scaling-up learning opportunities in a Euro-Mediterranean environment; fostering regional initiatives and projects in the areas of school-to-work transition and vocational training.
- Contributing to the implementation of the 2022 Ministerial Declaration on Research and Innovation; promoting scientific cooperation on climate change, renewable energy, health, food security, and blue economy, notably through Horizon Europe and the PRIMA initiative.
- Fostering green knowledge and skills through an innovation-employability nexus for students and researchers; endorsing a positive Science Diplomacy agenda in the Mediterranean.

ZOOM ON KEY PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

Mediterranean New Chance (MedNC)

The project aims to promote a regional network of accredited orientation, training and professional integration centres to establish a shared and innovative teaching model with a view to boosting the employability of unemployed graduates and young people who didn’t finish school.

The Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes (UEMF), a flagship project of the UfM, aims at contributing to stability and integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region through the promotion of dialogue, intercultural exchange, sharing of knowledge and cooperation in the fields of higher education, research and innovation. The UEMF is framed within the UfM cross-sectorial Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4Jobs). Read more about the UEMF here:
The Mediterranean countries face today common energy and climate challenges that require a high level of multilateral responses and collective actions. Strengthened cooperation in the energy and climate action fields is needed and represents an opportunity for both shores of the Mediterranean to achieve the ultimate goal of fostering the integration and the social and economic development in the region.

The Union for the Mediterranean acts as a unique platform to facilitate and promote regional dialogue and cooperation as well as concrete projects and initiatives in the fields of Energy and Climate Action in order to deal with the energy and climate change challenges in the region while advancing towards more secure and sustainable energy models.

The UfM has observer status at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Priorities

- Promote and address energy and climate change priorities in the region, to support the development of a shared Mediterranean agenda and contribute to the climate change commitment in the framework of the Paris agreement.
- Mobilize regional stakeholders and facilitate the implementation of energy and climate change agendas through structured dialogue platforms, working groups, and collaborative meetings with Mediterranean entities.
- Facilitate and promote initiatives, projects, and partnerships in energy and climate change that generate tangible regional impact on the ground, fostering sustainable and inclusive development across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The UfM supported the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC), composed of over 600 scientists from across the Euro-Mediterranean region, to develop the first-ever scientific report on the impacts of climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean.

The MedECC is currently working on the publication of three new special thematic reports tackling Climate and environmental coastal risks, Climate-food-water-energy-ecosystem nexus and the link between Environmental change, conflict, and human migration.

The Tafila Wind Farm breaks new ground for renewable energy projects in the Mediterranean. The 117 MW-wind farm serves well the regional objectives related to energy efficiency and decarbonization. The project was replicated in other countries as it paved the way for changing the regulatory and financial aspects governing investments in renewable energies in the region.
The Mediterranean region offers an immense potential for the sustainable, environmental-friendly development of its people. The UfM promotes regional cooperation to protect the Mediterranean Sea and the natural resources of the countries belonging to its area, and supports partnerships inspired by ‘green/blue’ circular economy principles.

Serious environmental threats, including water scarcity, put at risk this potential. Sustainable access, provision and use of water are key concerns. Particularly the areas along the southern and eastern shores of the region are among the world’s most water-scarce, with more than 180 million people facing water stress as well as water pollution problems. The UfM supports the implementation of regional agendas on Water, Environment and Blue Economy through several initiatives.

Priorities

- Promote integrated water resources management and ensure access to water resources and affordable water services
- Protect the Mediterranean Sea and its environment, contributing to de-pollution and pollution prevention efforts in the region
- Promote the green and blue economies

The UfM Water Agenda was put together in consultation with UfM Member States in order to guarantee it responds to the needs of all countries. It sets out a series of technical and financial recommendations, which aim to ensure that each country receives the necessary advice to help achieve water security for its populations and their economic activities.

The UfM Water Agenda, comprises a Policy Framework for Actions 2030 and a financial strategy.

The Plastic Busters project has a remarkable objective: to tackle the issue of marine litter in the Mediterranean. Over the last years, this Union for the Mediterranean-supported project has worked towards this goal in both the Northern and Southern Mediterranean regions by addressing the whole lifecycle of marine litter waste management.

“One of the dreams of the Plastic Busters project is to bind together the South and the North in order to reach the main goal to reduce the impact of marine litter on biodiversity in the entire Mediterranean.”

CRISTINA FOSSI
Professor at the University of Siena and Plastic Busters Director

Learn more about the project and the people behind it!
Development

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND INNOVATIVE URBAN PROJECTS AND FACILITATING TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY OVER LAND AND SEA

ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/transport-urban-development

The UfM is actively engaged towards addressing the complex challenges facing the transport sector and developing an efficient, integrated, interoperable, and sustainable transport infrastructure network through a holistic and integrated approach, with a view to improving transport connectivity in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Sustainable urbanization is key to addressing climate change, and cities are potential drivers for sustainable development, economic growth, and stability. With this in mind, the UfM works to implement the UfM Urban Agenda for the Mediterranean region following a cooperative approach that underscores the joint efforts of governments, local and regional authorities, developers, financiers and civil society, with the ultimate aim of improving the liveability of Mediterranean urban areas by ensuring that urban growth is turned into opportunities.

Priorities

- Develop a regional transport network fostering socio-economic development and regional integration
- Contribute to implementing the UfM Urban Agenda with a view to fostering inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable urban development

The UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040 establishes a common vision to tackle urban challenges in the region. It is the result of a 3-year collaboration between the European Commission and all UfM Member States, aiming to improve the quality of life for all citizens by building better, more inclusive, climate-resilient communities.

Over a five-year period, the project aims to foster regional integration in the Mediterranean, enhance professional performance, and promote employment and gender equality in the transport and logistics sectors. These aims are achieved through various actions, including the promotion of inter-modal transport solutions, the implementation of training and knowledge-transfer activities, and the development of sustainable transport chains and door-to-door logistics activities.

The project benefits almost 1,000 professionals in the transport and logistics sectors from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Italy, Morocco, Spain, and Tunisia.

More projects at www.ufmsecretariat.org

Political framework

Check out the complete list of Ministerial conferences and declarations on areas such as Urban Development and Transport:

Regional dialogue platforms

Discover the work of the UfM Regional dialogue platforms on areas such as Sustainable Urban Development and Transport Connectivity.

ZOOM ON KEY PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

The UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040

UfM Urban Agenda: Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040

TransLogMED

Click or scan the code to learn more about the UfM Urban Agenda

UfM URBAN AGENDA

Click or scan the code to learn more about the UfM Urban Agenda

Click or scan the code to learn more about the UfM Urban Agenda

Read more about the project here:

Source: World Bank, 2018

Source: EIB, 2017

Source: EIB, 2017

Nearly 80% of the Mediterranean countries’ populations will be concentrated on 10% of the land - predominantly the coastline - by 2030

60% of the Mediterranean population is living in urban areas, where the rapid increase in urban population constitutes a major challenge for sustainable urban development

The cost of trade between neighbours is twice as high among the MENA economies compared with those of Western Europe

Easy and safe access to flows of goods and people over land and sea is essential for regional prosperity and integration. The UfM is actively engaged towards addressing the complex challenges facing the transport sector and developing an efficient, integrated, interoperable and sustainable urbanization is key to addressing climate change, and cities are potential drivers for sustainable development, economic growth and stability. With this in mind, the UfM works to implement the UfM Urban Agenda for the Mediterranean region following a cooperative approach that underscores the joint efforts of governments, local and regional authorities, developers, financiers and civil society, with the ultimate aim of improving the liveability of Mediterranean urban areas by ensuring that urban growth is turned into opportunities.

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Click or scan the code to learn more about the UfM Urban Agenda

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Read more about the project here:
What is it?
In November 2020, the Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean declared the 28th of November as the official Day of the Mediterranean, to be marked annually, calling upon the entire Mediterranean community and everyone who identifies with the Mediterranean to celebrate its rich and diverse heritage.

The Mediterranean evokes a wide array of emotions and is an irreplaceable feature of our lives. A fascinating land to some, a source of livelihood for others and a home to many. It is here in the Mediterranean that the past is ever-present and the "other" is never far.

This unanimous decision by Member States comes at a challenging time, as we face unprecedented crises. However, we cannot afford to lose hope. We must remember - and celebrate - how rich the Mediterranean is: rich in history, in natural resources, and in people. Our region holds immense potential for our story to continue as one of hope, as we build the future we all want to see.

Announce your event or activity on the official website
The official website of the Day of the Mediterranean is live. Let’s make it the go-to page for all that matters in the Mediterranean. Whether you organise a large conference or hold a talk at a local university, as long as your focus is on the Mediterranean, register on the official website and publish your event. We want to connect communities around the region and show how collaboration can bring about positive change!

Brand your activity
Illustrate your activities with appealing visuals, starting with the official logo! Countless applications are possible, but here’s a good starting point:

Learn more about the Day of the Mediterranean on its dedicated website!

mediterraneanday.com