



How to become an active Mediterranean student?

**Mediterranean Student Summit
3rd Edition**

Palermo, September 26-28, 2024

By UNIMED and ESN, with the support of the University of Palermo



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Acknowledgements

UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union - and the **Erasmus Student Network** – ESN, with the support of the **University of Palermo** will organise in Palermo the **third Mediterranean Student Summit**, an initiative that seeks to bring together Higher Education students from different backgrounds and from both shores of the Mediterranean to foster intercultural dialogue and work together on common challenges.

After the success of the two first editions, this initiative is now established as an annual event focusing on student engagement and intercultural dialogue with students from **UNIMED Universities**.

Mediterranean Student Summit 3rd Edition

The third edition of the event will gather at least between **30 and 35 students** from UNIMED member Universities and will take place in the Mediterranean city of Palermo.

This edition will be an opportunity to reflect and encourage the students to explore and invest in their **international dimension**.

If mobility is definitely the key tool to discover, meet other cultures and build up our own international dimension, UNIMED and ESN are also convinced that, on a parallel way, the international dimension can be explored and strengthened “at home”, by welcoming and networking with international students, by being part of the international activities implemented by the university, by participating to virtual exchanges, by activating relations with national and international stakeholders.

The Summit will be organised around 3 key moments:

- **online training sessions** will be provided to selected students to prepare them before the Summit. They will take place in **July, August and September 2024** (max 2 per month).

These sessions (before and after) are full part of the Summit and will allow students to be familiar with the objectives of the Mediterranean Student Summit, to be prepared and thus to make the Summit more interactive and instructive. Online sessions will include, among other: ice breaking sessions and intercultural activities; presentation of UNIMED and ESN as well as other regional, national and international stakeholders;

- **3 days-summit in presence** in Palermo that includes: presentations by UNIMED, ESN, the University of Palermo and external contributors; presentations by the students (explained in the online sessions and prepared before the Summit), working groups, cultural activities;
- **2 online follow-up meetings after the event** to finalise the recommendations and to discuss the outcomes.

These online activities are fully part of the Summit and students should be committed to attend the 3 steps.

The **content** of the event will revolve around five interlinked themes:

- **Improving intercultural dialogue and student-led internationalisation in the Mediterranean.** Within this theme, the student will discuss topics such as: How can we bring students from different corners of the Mediterranean together? What is the role of the students to establish long-lasting connections that benefit the whole academic community? What are the demands for University leadership and decision makers?
- **Improving leadership and networking competencies:** the students will discuss the following questions: what kind of spaces exist for me, at my university, to meet others and build competencies? How can I contribute more effectively at student level to the internationalisation of my university? What do I need to get my voice heard at university level and outside university?
- **The creation of a Mediterranean Erasmus Generation: how to connect the region through student mobility and international friendship.** As part of this block, participants will discuss how we can boost mobility opportunities between the two shores of the Mediterranean, and also within South Mediterranean countries: do we need a new mobility programme? What makes a mobility experience impactful? How can we convince others to take part?
- **Building the University of the future in the Mediterranean.** In this block, students will discuss which kind of University they would like to see in the future, and which actions are needed to get there.
- **Drafting recommendations to make the students' voice heard.** *Thanks to the preliminary online sessions and the working sessions during the Summit, students will be guided in identifying, defining and writing recommendations on some challenges jointly identified by ESN and UNIMED.*

Thursday 26th of September

9h00 – 9h30

Registration

9h30 – 10h15

Opening ceremony

Massimo Midiri - Rector, University of Palermo

João Lobo - Project Analyst – Higher Education and Research, Union for the Mediterranean

Kherieh Rassas - UNIMED President

Marta Craveri - Director Research and International Department, Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme

Ana Stanescu - Academic and youth initiatives coordinator, Knowledge & Impact Division, European Investment Bank Institute

Kaja Kaczkiello - Vice President for Governance, Erasmus Student Network International

Fabio Mazzola - Vice-rector for Education and Foreign affairs, University of Palermo

10h15 - 10h30

The Summit overview: scope and expectations

By UNIMED & ESN

10h30 – 11h00

Coffee break

11h00 – 12h30

Summit session - Part 1 – Student's presentations: brief presentation of their country and national HE context

Purpose of this session – Ice breaking session and deeper understanding of each context; make the students active since the beginning.

12h30 - 14h30

Light lunch

Thursday 26th of September

14h30 – 16h30

Summit session Part 2 - Internationalisation of the universities and students: what is it?

This session is focused on:

- 1) opening the topic surrounding the internationalisation of higher education in the Mediterranean, focusing on two specific dimensions: mobilities and internationalisation at home;
- 2) presenting to the students some of the key existing programmes on mobility and internationalisation.

16h30 – 17h00

Debriefing session

18h00 - 19h30

Musical time by Professor **Paolo Scarnecchia** and **Maura Guerrera**

19h30 - 21h30

Social dinner at La Cambusa, offered by the **Union for the Mediterranean**

Friday 27th of September

9h15 – 10h00

Keynote speech: Building a renewed vision for the Mediterranean region

Joan Borrell, Union for the Mediterranean Deputy Secretary General in charge of Higher Education and Research

20 min Speech followed by a debate with the students

10h00 - 11h00

Interview: João Lobo & Kherieh Rassas

Moderated by **Marcello Scalisi**

Followed by a Q&A session with the students

11h00- 11h30

Coffee break

11h00 - 13h00

Summit session - Part 3 – How to become an active/engaged student?

In this session, the participants will learn about several ways of being engaged at internal, national, regional and international levels.

Experiences from **ESN** and **ESN Palermo** and **AASU** (All African Student Union)

Student's presentation: What kind of student engagement exists in your university?

13h00 – 15h00

Light Lunch

Friday 27th of September

- 15h00 – 16h30** **Summit session - Part 4 – Let's practice - what you think are the main challenges students are facing?**
- 16h30 – 17h30** **Summit session - Part 5 – How to advocate for students' engagement/commitment?**
- 17h30 – 19h30** Free time
- 19h30 – 21h30** **Social dinner** offered by the University of Palermo

Saturday 28th of September

9h00 – 11h00

Summit session - Part 5 – Tell us what you think - your contributions to the debate!

Working groups among students to draft policy recommendations

11h00 – 11h30

Coffee break

11h30 - 12h30

Summit session - Part 6 - Presentation of the student recommendations and dialogue with the international/national stakeholders

Players: University of Palermo, ESN, UNIMED, all stakeholders present at the summit

12h30 - 13h30

Debriefing and closing of the 3rd Mediterranean Student Summit

13h30 – 15h00

Lunch & Time for testimonials

15h00 - 19h30

Cultural tour of Palermo

19h30- 21h30

Free dinner



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Mediterranean Student Summit
2024



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