

How to become an active Mediterranean student?

Mediterranean Student Summit

3rd Edition

26th – 28th of September

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



**Università
degli Studi
di Palermo**

With the financial support of the



*Under the patronage of **the Union for the Mediterranean***



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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**.

The Mediterranean Student Summit: Edition 2024

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 Joao 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 Kaczkielto - 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
14h30 – 16h30	Summit session Part 2 - Internationalisation of the universities and students: what is it? <i>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</i>
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	<p>Keynote speech: A positive agenda for the Mediterranean region Joan Borrell, Union For the Mediterranean Deputy Secretary General in charge of Higher Education and Research <i>20 min Speech followed by a debate with the students</i></p>
10h00 - 11h00	<p>Interview: Joao Lobo & Kherieh Rassas Moderated by Marcello Scalisi</p> <p>Followed by a Q&A session with the students</p>
11h00- 11h30	Coffee break
11h00 - 13h00	<p>Summit session - Part 3 – How to become an active/engaged student?</p> <p><i>In this session, the participants will learn about several ways of being engaged at internal, national, regional and international levels.</i></p> <p>Experiences from ESN and ESN Palermo and AASU (All African Student Union)</p> <p>Student's presentation: what kind of student engagement exists in your university?</p>
13h00 – 15h00	Light Lunch
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
