



Outcome Document

The 4th UfM Med4Jobs Stakeholders Dialogue Aswan, 15 December 2024

Background:

Since its first edition in 2018, it was decided that the Stakeholders Dialogue inspired by the flagship UfM initiative for employment (Med4Jobs) would take place every two years. The 4th edition of the UfM Med4Jobs Stakeholders Dialogue took place in Aswan, Egypt, on 15 December 2024, co-organised with the German Development Cooperation, co-funded by the European Commission (DG EMPL), and hosted by Om Habibeh Foundation in Aswan. The Dialogue also benefitted from the support of the Governorate of Aswan.

The Dialogue was followed back-to-back on 16-17 December 2024 by the 10th meeting of the UfM Community of Practice (CoP) on Youth Employment in the Southern Mediterranean, also in partnership with the German Development Cooperation. Both activities form part of the UfM Roadmap for Action 2022-2025 which aims at implementing the [2022 Marrakech Ministerial Declaration](#) in close collaboration with DG EMPL and other actors in the ecosystem.



The Conference brought together 70 public and private sectors' representatives, regional organisations, policymakers, universities, and other stakeholders from several UfM Member States to exchange insights and best practices, as well as explore future cooperation pathways.

Content:

The Conference was inaugurated by Professor Dr. Loay Saadeddin Nasrat, President of Aswan University, who stressed the need to eliminate the gap between Academia and Industry. During the Welcoming Remarks, Mr. Mohammed Elrazzaz (UfM) explained the rationale and the modality of the Dialogue, and Dr. Hanan El Guindy, Country Director of Om Habibeh Foundation, stated that the Conference is a good occasion to share the projects they are working on in Aswan.

For his part, the Deputy Governor of Aswan Eng. Amr Lasheen delivered a scene setter stressing the need for a human-centric approach that incorporates gender, people with disabilities and youth. He took stock of the work underway in Aswan to promote sustainable community development.



Modality:

Throughout three sessions and to ensure full engagement of all the participants, the audience was introduced to the modality and the thematic, introduced to the topic by 2-3 speakers per panel, then engaged in interactive discussions on Opportunities, Challenges, and Best Practices.

The panelists shared experiences from UfM-labeled projects under Med4Jobs ([Generation Entrepreneur](#) and [Euro-Mediterranean University of Fez](#)), projects benefiting from UfM Grant Schemes (SEARCHED and [Get Into Green](#)), as well as initiatives carried forward by IMPACT Europe (EU-funded regional programme, [Impact Together!](#)), MIMIR Fellow Finland, and the European Institute of Cooperation and Development.

Key findings:

Through focused discussions, the participants coincided on several opportunities, threats, and best practices under the three thematic areas of discussion. The table hereunder lists the most prominent findings in a representative -rather than exhaustive- manner:

1. Job Creation in times of Green Transition		
Opportunities	Threats	Best Practices
The availability of dedicated funds for green skills	Persisting skill gaps between and within both shores	Proper KPIs and triple bottom line reporting
New pathways for entrepreneurship	Lack of awareness and accountability	Massive wind farms and solar plants in MENA Region
New horizons for Public-Private Partnerships	Many jobs will be lost, and people will need to reskill	Attracting global impact investment
Opening the brackets for transition to be just	Discrepancies and resistance to clear definitions	Stakeholders' dialogue to define the concept
2. Rural Development through Decent Work		
Opportunities	Threats	Best Practices
Clustering of small businesses across villages	Labour landscape not properly mapped	EU support and growing body of legislation
Digitalisation creates opportunities in rural areas	Limited access to markets and finance	Dedicated business centres and NGOs in rural areas
Traditional and local knowledge	Social norms and stereotypes	Capacity-building and targeted training
Higher demand for local and personalized products	Limited connectivity and access to technology	Fair trade and local supply chains.
3. Labour Mobility in the Digital Age		
Opportunities	Threats	Best Practices
Digital transformation re-shaping labour market	Governance loopholes and conflict of interest	Talent/Skill visas and exchange programmes
Huge investments and funds supporting digitalisation	Brain-drain and demographic imbalances	Integrating digitalisation into school curricula
Digital tech improving all economic sectors	High entry barrier and start-up costs	AI and new technologies driving innovation
Democratization through transfer of knowledge	Mobility limitations	De-carbonize digitalization through innovation