



Draft Agenda

UfM Digital Sustainable Week

Towards Inclusive AI and Sustainable Trade and Investment in the
Mediterranean

Istanbul, 26-29 May 2025

Venue: TBC

Day 1

Time Slot	Agenda Item
09:00 - 09:30	Registration and welcome coffee
09:30 - 09:45	Opening Remarks - UfM Secretariat, GIZ
09:45 – 11:00	Session: How AI is Reshaping Businesses and Industries AI is revolutionizing business operations by automating repetitive tasks, enhancing productivity, enabling data-driven decision-making, and anticipating future trends. Industries such as healthcare and mobility are poised to experience significant benefits from AI-driven innovations. This discussion will explore key questions, including: • How is AI transforming business strategies and operations? • What are some real-world success stories demonstrating AI's impact? Moderator: Panelists:
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break
11:15-12:30	Session: AI Risks and Ethical Aspects AI technology presents several challenges, including concerns related to data protection, transparency, accountability, and potential biases in certain tools. Addressing these issues requires well-balanced regulation that mitigates risks without stifling innovation. This discussion will focus on: • What challenges arise from the implementation of AI tools?



	How can regulation minimize AI's potential negative effects while fostering innovation? Moderator: Panelists:
12:30 - 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30-15:45	Session: AI & creativity Creative industries—such as media, content creation, and art—are among the most affected by Generative AI. While this technology unlocks new opportunities, it also presents significant challenges. This panel will explore the following questions: - How is AI transforming creative industries? - How can creatives leverage AI to thrive? Moderator: Panelists:
15:45-17:00	Session: Skills Development to Leverage AI According to the IMF's 2024 report, AI is expected to impact nearly 40% of global jobs. While some jobs may disappear, others will benefit from increased productivity and higher income potential. To harness the opportunities AI presents, it is crucial to invest in digital skills through targeted upskilling programs within education and vocational training systems. Key discussion questions: - Which jobs will be most affected by AI, and to what extent? - How can skills development programs be tailored to integrate AI literacy effectively? - Moderator: Panelists:



Day 2

Time Slot	Agenda Item
09:30 - 10:45	Session: Enabling Policies for an Inclusive AI AI has the potential to widen inequalities both within and between countries. To ensure AI benefits everyone, policymakers—working alongside key stakeholders—need to implement proactive measures to enhance its adoption and accessibility. This discussion will explore: • What are successful policy examples that support inclusive AI? • How can international collaboration help ensure AI works for all? Moderator: Panelists:
10:45 – 11:00	Survey/Quiz
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break
11:15-12:30	Award Ceremony
12:30 - 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30-15:45	AI and Guarantee Schemes
15:45-17:00	Guarantee products for sustainability

Day 3

Time Slot	Agenda Item
09:30 - 09:45	Key-note: Climate change: pressing challenges and promising opportunities of green transition This session will bring together keynote speakers to present the latest scientific evidence and findings, highlighting climate change as one of today's most pressing challenges while also showcasing the economic opportunities offered by the green transition.



09:45 – 11:00	Session: Sustainable Trade and Investment – Updates on EU Frameworks and Regulations To meet sustainability requirements, various regional initiatives have been introduced, including key EU regulations on sustainable supply chains and investment, such as the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD). Recently, simplification measures have been adopted to reduce complexity, particularly for SMEs. Panelists will discuss: • What are the most relevant EU legislations, and what feedback has been received from implementing stakeholders? • What recent simplification amendments have been introduced to balance environmental protection with competitiveness and innovation? Moderator: Panelists:
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break
11:15-12:30	Session: South Mediterranean Countries – National Efforts Toward Sustainability and Key Challenges South Mediterranean countries have implemented various measures to align with their sustainability commitments and adhere to international and regional standards. To stay on track with their economic development goals, fostering dialogue on both adopted policies and necessary support measures is crucial. Key discussion points: • What are some national initiatives aimed at meeting sustainability requirements? • How can sustainability regulations be implemented in a way that avoids negative impacts on developing countries? Moderator: Panelists:
12:30 - 14:30	Lunch Break



14:30-15:45	Session: AI as an Enabler of Sustainable Supply Chains Trade contributes to climate change, making the greening of this sector essential for a successful green transition. AI can support this effort by optimizing logistics, predicting market trends, and enhancing sustainability reporting for both transportation and traded goods. Key discussion points: • How can AI contribute to making supply chains more sustainable? • What are some best practices for leveraging AI in this role? Moderator: Panelists:
15:45-17:00	Session: AI's Role in Promoting Sustainable Investments Beyond generating economic profit, investments are increasingly expected to create positive social and environmental impacts. Alongside its contribution to improving the business environment, AI can play a key role in identifying, attracting, and retaining sustainable investments. Key discussion points: • How can AI enhance the business environment and improve a country's investment attractiveness? • How can AI help prioritize sustainable investments, given their positive social and environmental effects? Moderator: Panelists:
17:00-17:15	Closing remarks

Day 4

Time Slot	Agenda Item
10:30 – 12:30	Field visit to ICOC- Commercialization Center of Istanbul (İTO Bilgiyi Ticarileştirme Merkezi) (Upon invitation)



	The visit will include Campus Tour & Introduction to this multifunctional entrepreneurship center supporting entrepreneurs with innovative business ideas (Start-Ups). It will also feature a Turkish Startup (Entrepreneurship) Ecosystem Briefing & Startup Presentation at BTM Stage, followed by Q&A.
13:30 - 15:00	Good-bye Lunch