



Context

Greening higher education is an essential step to equip students and researchers with practical knowledge and skills to address sustainability challenges and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Empowering youth to create a sustainable future is critical for preserving the planet and educating future responsible citizens. Despite the vast knowledge about current environmental challenges, there is still a lack of a holistic, systematic approach to education in this area. Indeed, greening curricula and extracurricular activities, in particular, involves integrating ideas, concepts, and principles from various disciplines.

In 2023, the UfM launched a Public Consultation targeting key Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and networks across the Euro-Mediterranean region. The aim was to gather input from relevant stakeholders to enhance regional cooperation in the field of higher education. This initiative was part of the preparatory process for a Ministerial Conference focused on establishing a renewed framework for collaboration in this sector. During the consultation, HEIs emphasized the need for a cross-cutting approach to integrating the SDGs and climate-related topics into academic curricula and staff training. They also highlighted the importance of fostering cross-border and interdisciplinary research collaboration to effectively address shared challenges related to sustainability and environmental issues.

In preparation for the upcoming Ministerial Conference, the UfM, in collaboration with UNIMED – the Mediterranean Universities Union – and the University of Girona, is organizing a series of consultations and a dedicated meeting for academic leaders and experts on 26–27 June 2025. These sessions will focus on advancing green education and strengthening capacity for climate action. The discussions will also contribute to the development of an Advocacy Paper supporting the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean University Alliance for Climate Action, and to foster strategic partnerships around core actions such as mandatory sustainability courses, joint master's programmes, researcher mobility, and collaborative research projects. The outcomes of this important gathering are expected to significantly inform the forthcoming UfM Ministerial Declaration on Higher Education and the New Pact for the Mediterranean, both currently in development.

Target audience

Academic leaders, specifically management staff, from Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries as well as the European Union. Additionally, the event will be attended by scientists and representatives from both regional and global international organizations.

Objectives

- Prepare an advocacy paper for a Euromed University Alliance to be launched at COP30, which could inspire a possible future ministerial declaration on higher education and the new pact for the Mediterranean.
- Propose actionable recommendations for a regional action plan on higher education.
- Map climate-smart and green curricula in the Mediterranean region.
- Showcase best practices in greening higher education.

Stakeholders

- [EMUNI University/Network](#)
- [Euromed University of Fez – UEMF](#)
- [UNIMED Subnetwork on Climate and Environmental Change](#)
- [Téthys Consortium of Euro-Mediterranean University](#)
- [RMEIM – Mediterranean Network of Engineering and Management Schools](#)
- [GUni - Global University Network for Innovation](#)
- [Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie](#)
- [UNESCO Greening Education Partnership](#)
- [OECD Center for Skills](#)
- [PolyCIVIS](#)

Relevant documents

- [Cairo Declaration Towards a Euro-Mediterranean Higher Education & Research Area \(ufmsecretariat.org\)](#)
- [Report of the Public Consultation in view of the 1st UfM Ministerial Conference on Higher Education](#)
- [The Future of Higher Education in the Mediterranean – The Students' Perspective](#)
- [Green Innovation and Employability in the Mediterranean through the Triple Helix UfM-UNIMED](#)
- [Integrating Green Skills into Education and Research – UfM-Pæradigms](#)
- [The Internationalisation of Higher Education in the Mediterranean - Union for the Mediterranean](#)
- [Integrating Green Skills into Education and Research – The Role of Universities and Research Centres](#)
- [Greening curriculum guidance - UNESCO](#)
- [EU new Agenda for the Mediterranean](#)
- [Commission Communication on a European strategy for universities](#)

Agenda

26 June

18.00 **Guided city tour.** Meeting Point: Hotel Peninsular (Avinguda de Sant Francesc, 6) [*with comfortable shoes and light clothing*]

21.00 **Networking dinner.** La Miranda Restaurant (Carrer Ciutadans, 14) [*informal dress code*]

27 June

08.45 Registration

09.00 **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

- **Joaquim Salvi Mas**, Rector, University of Girona
- **Joan Borrell Mayeur**, Deputy Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean
- **Marcello Scalisi**, Director, UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union

09.15 **Mapping Climate and Environmental Education in Mediterranean Universities**

- **Josep Vila Subiros**, University of Girona, Spain
- **Adil Salhi**, Abdelmalek Essaâdi University, Morocco

09.30 **Plenary Session 1 - Greening education: assessing challenges and opportunities**

Moderator: **Petra Kežman**, Senior Advisor, union for the Mediterranean

8 min each + 40 minutes debate

- **Katerina Ananiadou**, UNESCO Greening Education Partnership (online)
- **Amr Ezzat Salama**, Secretary-General, Association of Arab Universities (AArU)
- **Rado Bohinc**, President, Euro-Mediterranean University, EMUNI
- **Camille de Garidel-Thoron**, Téthys network & Aix-Marseille University
- **Elizabeth Colucci**, Adviser, European University Association (EUA)
- **Josep Maria Vilalta**, Director, Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi)

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 **The opportunity of the New Pact for the Mediterranean: a Euromed University Alliance for Climate Action**

- Speakers to be confirmed

11.50 **Plenary Session 2 - Embedding sustainability in academic curricula: best practices from Euro-Mediterranean universities**

Moderator: **Wail Benjelloun**, UNIMED Honorary President

7 min each + 60 minutes debate

- **Abdelkrim Beniaiche**, Rector, University of Bejaia, Algeria
- **Anastasia Zabaniotou**, Emeritus Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
- **Bouchta El Moumni**, Rector, Abdelmalek Essaâdi University, Morocco
- **Ingrid Mulà**, Associate Professor, University of Girona, Spain

13.20 Lunch

14.50 **Working Groups**

- **WG1 - Fostering green skills in Higher Education Institutions** [greening university curricula, student involvement in green practices, building capacities for academic staff] / Facilitator: Adil Salhi, Abdelmalek Essaâdi University, Morocco

- **WG2 - Research and innovation for climate action** / Facilitator: Giuseppe Provenzano, UfM
- **WG3 - Partnerships for climate action** [institutionalization and policy integration, advocacy, multi-stakeholder cooperation] / Facilitator: Marcello Scalisi, UNIMED

16.20 **Wrap-up and Conclusions**

- **João Lobo**, Project Analyst, Union for the Mediterranean & **WG Facilitators**

16.40 **Closing Remarks**

Coordination: João Lobo, Project Analyst, Union for the Mediterranean

Working languages: English, French - interpretation available only for the plenary sessions