



We, the undersigned institutions of higher education and research in the Euro-Mediterranean region, affirm our shared commitment to confronting the urgent and interconnected challenges of climate and environmental change. The Mediterranean is a recognized climate hotspot – and we believe universities must lead the response. They shape mindsets, inspire collective action and mobilize entire societies toward a sustainable future.

The Mediterranean is warming 20% faster than the global average. Rising sea levels, extreme heat, biodiversity loss and water scarcity are already threatening ecosystems, economies, and human wellbeing. These environmental pressures are compounded by fragile peace, rising social tensions and growing displacement risks, highlighting the need for an integrated response rooted in sustainability and cooperation.

Through the Euromed University Initiative for Climate Action, we unite to empower future generations with the knowledge, skills and values needed to shape a just, resilient and sustainable Mediterranean region. In addressing climate change, we embrace the broader framework of sustainability in all its dimensions – environmental, social and economic – recognizing their interdependence and centrality to lasting solutions.

We reimagine the role of universities in the Mediterranean – not only to respond to the climate crisis, but to nurture human potential, protect our shared ecosystems and advance justice for all.

Together, we commit to:

### **1. Advance Regional Cooperation in Climate Education**

- Map the existing climate-related academic offer and make it visible to students across the region.
- Develop curriculum guidelines to regionally standardize tertiary climate education.
- Establish joint Euromed master's and PhD programs on climate governance.

## **2. Make Climate Education a Curricular Baseline**

- Integrate sustainability across disciplines, making climate literacy a graduation requirement.
- Expand interdisciplinary faculty training on climate issues.
- Include arts, humanities and social sciences into climate education to foster systems thinking, ethical reasoning and a deeper understanding of social justice.

## **3. Include Students in Climate Governance and Action**

- Encourage regional mobility to expose students to different climate realities and solutions.
- Increase graduate employability by aligning education with the evolving demands of green markets.
- Support youth-led climate initiatives, campaigns, associations and campus actions.

## **4. Support Innovation Smart Hubs**

- Promote regional and local living labs for broad societal co-design of climate solutions.
- Adopt sustainability indicators and carbon neutrality targets for university campuses.
- Foster university-based incubators and accelerators to support climate-related startups.

In addition to our collective regional action, we commit ourselves to engage individually at the local level with all relevant stakeholders – governmental authorities, civil society, business and media – to support coordinated and impactful climate action.

We join forces with like-minded university initiatives around the world and commit to strengthened cooperation, notably under the UNESCO-driven Greening Education Partnership.

We call on local, national, regional and international authorities to support our efforts and align investments accordingly.

We call on our students to be bold, creative and relentless in driving the change our region needs.

We will continue to promote the initiative at relevant regional and global platforms, including COP30 in Belém, Brazil, to broaden our coalition and deepen our impact.

Under the coordination of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED), we will define a common roadmap to implement this vision.

**Together, we will transform Mediterranean higher education into a cornerstone of regional climate resilience.**

*Universities and other institutions working in the field of higher education and research are invited to endorse the Manifesto and join the Initiative. Endorsements should be submitted through an official expression of support from the institution's leadership by sending an email to [education@ufmsecretariat.org](mailto:education@ufmsecretariat.org) with the subject line: Manifesto Endorsement.*