



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



UfM HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH WEEK

5 – 7 OCTOBER 2026 / BARCELONA

UfM Headquarters, Palau de Pedralbes

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE UfM NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS ON HIGHER EDUCATION



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5 OCTOBER 2026 / BARCELONA

UfM Headquarters,
Palau de Pedralbes

Music Room (on invitation only)

13.30 Registration & Welcome Coffee

14.00 Welcome Address by the UfM Secretariat

Opening Remarks by the UfM Co-Presidencies

European Commission DG EAC and Jordan's Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

14.15 **The 2026 UNESCO Report “Transforming higher education: global collaboration on visioning and action”**: presentation and debate

14.45 **Towards the First UfM Ministerial Meeting on Higher Education**

16:15 Coffee Break (Throne Room)

16:45 **The Next Erasmus+ programme (2028-2034)**: presentation and Q&A

17.15 **The Mediterranean University** initiative of the Pact for the Mediterranean: presentation and Q&A

17.45 **Open debate by Member States and invited stakeholders**

Member States and stakeholders are invited to share their recent achievements and challenges, propose actions, and comment on broader regional higher education issues

18.45 **Wrap-up and next steps**

19.00 End of the meeting

20.00 Dinner (Santa Clara Restaurant)

CO-CREATING THE COMMON MEDITERRANEAN KNOWLEDGE SPACE



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6 OCTOBER 2026 / BARCELONA
UfM Headquarters,
Palau de Pedralbes

Boosting the higher education and research partnerships for peace, prosperity and stability – stakeholders' consultation

Music Room (open to UfM Member States and registered stakeholders)

08.30 **Registration & Welcome Coffee**

09.00 **Opening Remarks**

09.15 **Plenary Session 1**
The Pact for the Mediterranean – higher education, skills, research and innovation

- Establishing a Mediterranean University
- Enhancing student and staff mobility in higher education
- Establishing and further developing Innovation and Research Centres
- Establishing a Mediterranean Science Diplomacy Centre

10.00 **Plenary Session 2**
Higher education and research as drivers of resilience and recovery in crisis-affected areas

11.00 **Coffee Break** (Throne Room)

11.30 **Parallel Session 1: Higher Education** - The Mediterranean University (Music Room)
Parallel Session 2: Research and Innovation - Innovation and research centres (Banqueting Room)

13.00 **Lunch** (Throne Room)

14.00 **Parallel Session 3: Higher Education** – The Erasmus+ programme (Music Room)
Parallel Session 4: Research and Innovation – The Mediterranean Science Diplomacy Center (Banqueting Room)

15.30 **Coffee Break** (Throne Room)

16h00 Visit to the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre and PRIMA
UNIMED Board of Directors (Banqueting Room)

18.30 **Cocktail reception** (UfM garden)

32ND MEETING OF THE UfM PLATFORM ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



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7 OCTOBER 2026 / BARCELONA

UfM Headquarters,
Palau de Pedralbes

Music Room (on invitation only)

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| 08.30 | Registration |
| 09.00 | Introductory Remarks by the UfM |
| 09.15 | Introduction and adoption of the agenda by the Co-chairs
<i>European Commission DG RTD and Jordan's Higher Council for Science and Technology</i> |
| 09.30 | Update on implementation plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Updates on implementation plan of the three priorities: health; climate change; renewable energies▪ Presentation and adoption of the monitoring, evaluation and learning baseline report - MEL |
| 10.00 | Update on Working Groups – presentation and adoption of final policy papers and action plans outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Working Group 1: Mobility of researchers and capacity building and science diplomacy
<i>Co-chaired by Egypt & Italy</i>▪ Working Group 2: Open Data and digitalization - <i>Co-chaired by Jordan & Spain</i> |
| 10.30 | Regional Scalability Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Regional Scalability Strategy – presentation and adoption▪ Africa-Mediterranean Innovation Fair – 25 November, Italy |
| 11.00 | Towards the 2027 UfM Ministerial Conference on Research and Innovation (drafting session) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Policy framework: the New Pact for the Mediterranean▪ Presentation of the first draft of the Ministerial Declaration
Collection of input by UfM Platform members▪ Timeline next steps |
| 13.45 | AOB and Conclusions |
| 14.00 | Lunch (Throne Room) |

In parallel: UNIMED General Assembly (on invitation only)