



Union for the Mediterranean

Promoting regional dialogue and cooperation

Presskit

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الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



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About Us

What is the Union for the Mediterranean?

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is a unique intergovernmental Euro-Mediterranean organisation which brings together all 28 countries of the European Union and 15 countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. The UfM provides a forum to enhance regional cooperation, dialogue and the implementation of concrete projects and initiatives with tangible impact on our citizens, with an emphasis on young people, in order to address the three strategic objectives of the region: stability, human development and integration.

43 Members

Albania • Algeria • Austria • Belgium • Bosnia and Herzegovina • Bulgaria • Croatia • Cyprus • Czech Republic • Denmark • Egypt • Estonia • Finland • France • Germany • Greece • Hungary • Ireland • Israel • Italy • Jordan • Latvia • Lebanon • Libya • Lithuania • Luxembourg • Malta • Mauritania • Monaco • Montenegro • Morocco • Netherlands • Palestine • Poland • Portugal • Romania • Slovakia • Slovenia • Spain • Sweden • Syria* • Tunisia • Turkey • United Kingdom

The members of the Union for the Mediterranean meet on a regular basis at the level of Senior Officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the 43 UfM countries, EU institutions and the League of Arab States. The Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) provide the framework to discuss the current political context and coordinate the work of the UfM Secretariat.

*Syria suspended its membership in December 2011

**Libya has an observer status

2 Co-Presidents

The EU and Jordan have assumed the Northern and Southern co-presidency since 2012, embodying the UfM principle of co-ownership.

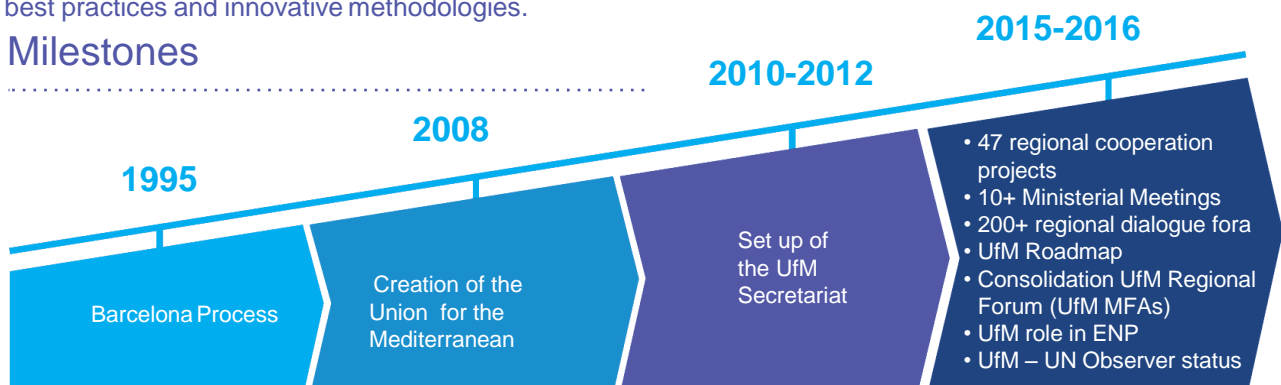


1 Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean is the platform to operationalise decisions taken by the Member States, implementing strategic regional projects through a specific methodology based on dynamic multi-partner networks and the exchange of best practices and innovative methodologies.

The UfM Co-Presidents Ms. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission and Mr. Ayman Safadi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Jordan with the UfM Secretary General, Mr. Fathallah Sijilmassi, at the Second UfM Regional Forum "Mediterranean in Action: Youth for Stability and Development"

Milestones

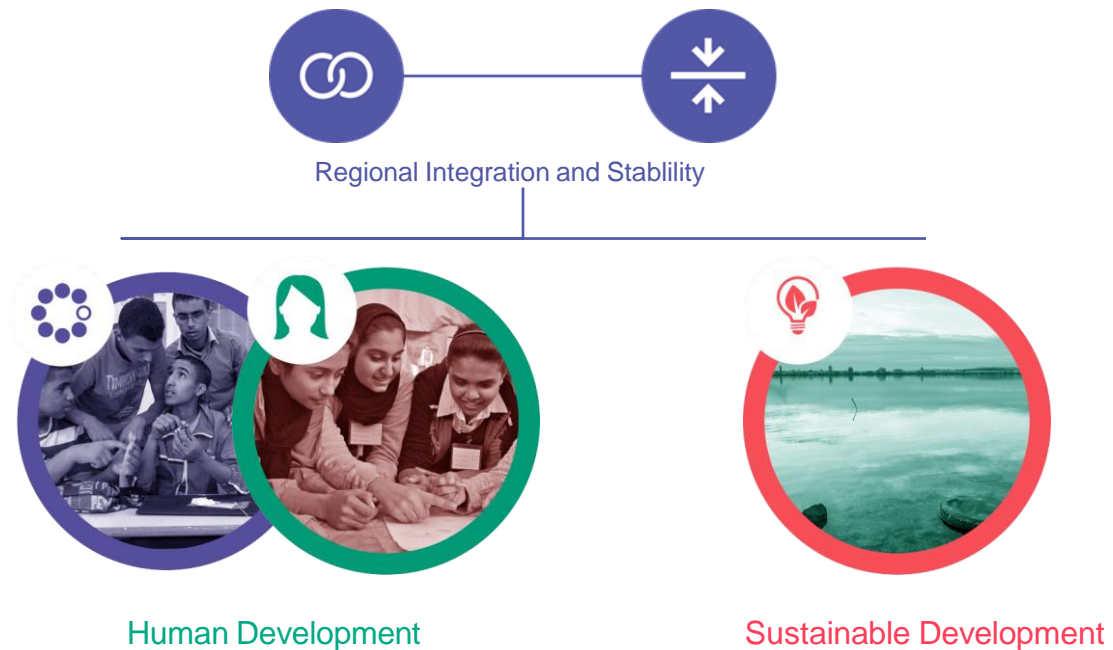




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Main priorities

The UfM activities tackle the main strategic objectives of the region: Regional Integration and Stability, specifically focusing on two main pillars of action, fostering human development and promoting sustainable development.



Both areas are addressed through projects and initiatives in 6 sectors mandated by the UfM members:



“ With 47 labelled projects, 10 ministerial meetings, over 200 expert fora gathering 20,000 stakeholders, the UfM activities illustrate the strong belief that regional challenges call for regional solutions and that there is no security without development. In this regard, youth is at the heart of the Mediterranean agenda.

UfM Secretary General - Fathallah Sijilmassi

@FSijilmassi



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Policies in Action

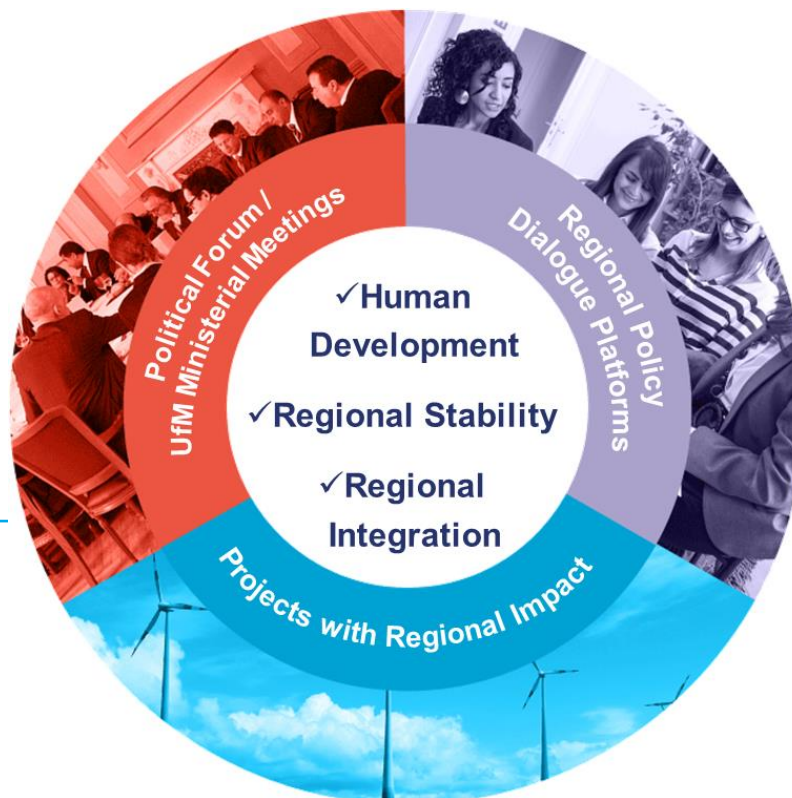
Building thematic common agendas

Declarations adopted by consensus by the 43 Ministers define the scope and objectives of a common regional agenda by sectors.

10+ Ministerial meetings have taken place since 2012 on key areas: Strengthening the role of Women in society • Transport • Energy • Industrial Cooperation • Environment and Climate Change • Digital Economy • Blue Economy • Regional Cooperation • Employment.

Fostering regional dialogue

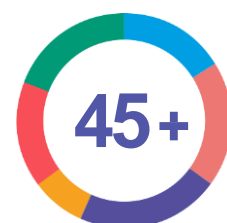
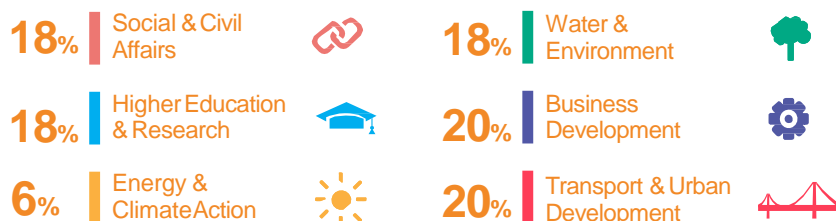
Ministerial Declarations allow the UfM Secretariat to structure accordingly platforms for regional dialogue and cooperation. These regional platforms have involved a cooperative network of over **20,000** stakeholders including governments and members of parliament, international organisations, financial institutions, the private sector, civil society, universities and international experts through more than **200** Expert fora since 2012.



Translating the policy dimension into concrete projects

The added value of the UfM lies in the interrelation created between the policy dimension and its operational translation into concrete projects on the ground. The UfM Secretariat is currently promoting the implementation of more than **45** regional cooperation projects valued at over **€5** billion.

Labelled projects





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How UfM projects work

As a regional platform, the UfM is a catalyst accompanying project promoters throughout the project lifecycle. The UfM Secretariat mentors project promoters with proposal finalisation, financial planning and fund-raising, as well as technical assistance, project launching and providing access to a large network of stakeholders.



1- PROMOTING REGIONAL DIALOGUE



UfM promotes regional dialogue to create synergies for partnerships. National, regional, public and private entities with proven experience in implementing projects apply to become project promoters within the UfM strategic thematic areas.

UfM Project Promoters:

14% International Organizations	10% Financial Institution	16% National Administration	14% Private Sector	16% Higher Education & Research Institution	30% Civil Society
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2- ENGAGING IN OPERATIONAL RESPONSES

The key characteristics of a UfM project are:



A regional, sub-regional or transnational scope to enhance regional integration and encourage North-South and South-South cooperation



A clear, independent financial perspective



Addressing key regional challenges in one of the UfM mandated areas

3 -SECURING POLITICAL ENDORSEMENT



43 UfM country representatives gather every 3 months to endorse projects and initiatives by unanimous decision.

Once awarded, UfM labelling provides:



Solutions for complex regional projects with a wide network of technical and financial partners



Strong political commitment from 43 countries



Regional recognition and visibility at the highest level



Potential replication and best practice sharing of successful projects

4- DELIVERING RESULTS WITH A DIRECT IMPACT ON CITIZENS



Inclusive growth and youth employability

15+ projects labelled

100,000+ beneficiaries



Women's empowerment

8 projects labelled

50,000+ beneficiaries



Sustainable development

20+ projects labelled
Investments of more than **€4bn**

EXPERTS – To interview UfM experts and spokespeople, please contact us at media@ufmsecretariat.org / +34 935 214 198



Sylvie Millot
Executive Director for Operations and Partnerships



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Voices from the Mediterranean

Looking for human interest stories? Do not hesitate to contact us! Let's give a voice to inspiring experiences happening in the Mediterranean.



“I'm currently working as a young entrepreneur in my own country. I've just set up my own company, with the aim of building a private school to provide pre-school, primary, junior and secondary education in a rural area of Morocco.”

Soukeina El Bouj - Beneficiary of the Young Women as Job Creators project



“The value of the UfM is that they create platforms, events where you meet people from the North and the South, and where companies and countries in the South can work together. I think it is very important as well that the inter-regional relations in the MENA region are encouraged and in some ways optimised.”

Rainier Ptok - Head of Foreign Relations at German SME association BVMW



“Since 2009 our company has recycled more than 395 tonnes of electronic waste, avoiding its introduction into landfill sites. This activity allows us to reduce CO₂ emissions and greenhouse gases on our planet. The technical support of the Union for the Mediterranean can help us to better export hazardous wastes.”

Ines Temmi-Covi - General Manager Collectun d3e Recyclage, Beneficiary of the SwitchMed Programme



“Before I joined the programme, I was missing practical skills. I lacked self-confidence and was afraid to make the leap into business ... I have learned a lot in these last weeks. I will leave better equipped to join the labour market.”

Salma Mustapha – Tunisian Beneficiary of the project New Chance Mediterranean.



“Upon completion of this internship in France and my return to Morocco, I will have the chance to continue working in the same company, but this time as an employee.”

Youssef Barghane - Beneficiary of the HOMERe: High Opportunity for Mediterranean Executive Recruitment project



“The effects of climate change and the phenomenal shift towards urbanisation – 6 out of every 10 people in the world are expected to reside in urban areas by 2030 – are already being felt and are bound to intensify in the coming years. There is thus a need to mobilise all actors to ensure the growth of cities is turned into opportunities. The UfM has a central role in furthering these goals in the Mediterranean region”

Joan Clos - UN-Habitat Executive Director



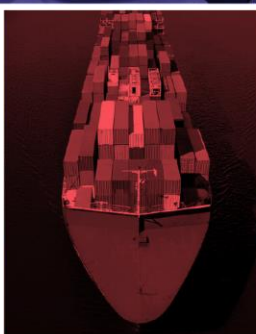
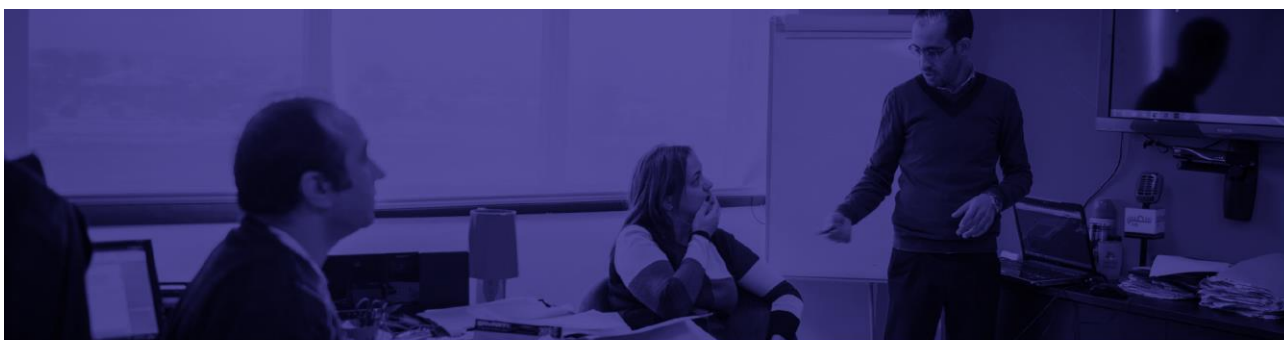
“The establishment of this University has been carried out thanks to the support of the UfM. I highly doubt that we would receive significant contributions from the European Commission, the European Investment Bank and other donors without the technical assistance provided by the UfM. In addition, the UfM has helped us to build numerous partnerships with renowned higher education and research institutions from across the Euro-Mediterranean region, which has been key to reinforce the regional dimension of the University while creating mobility opportunities for our students and staff.”

Prof. Mostapha Bousmina, President of the Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes



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SECTORIAL FACTSHEETS



Business Development

Stimulating employment and supporting SMEs



Youth Employability & Inclusive Growth

Women's Empowerment

POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 👉 UfM Ministerial Conference on Labour and Employment (Jordan, 27 September 2016);
- 👉 Ministerial Conference on Digital Economy (Brussels, 30 September 2014);
- 👉 UfM Ministerial Conference on Industrial Cooperation (Brussels, 19 February 2014).

PRIORITIES

- ⚙️ Foster job creation and support the development of SMEs through the UfM Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4Jobs);
- ⚙️ Develop a strategy for private sector development;
- ⚙️ Advance the digital economy and support creative industries in the region.



The development of the private sector, the fostering of job creation, the fair distribution of economic benefits as well as the strengthening of regional cooperation and integration are key factors contributing to socio-economic development. Therefore a concrete action, tangible results on the ground, projects with a real impact on the citizens' wellbeing are paramount. For all these reasons, the UfM Secretariat is positioning itself as a trusted adviser and a credible knowledgebroker."

Amb. Sudqi Al-Omoush - Deputy Secretary General for Business Development Jordan



In the Southern Mediterranean countries **70%** of the working-age population is under **30 years old**



80% of jobs are created by SMEs



\$25 billion by 2018: The potential increase in the region's Gross Domestic Product if youth unemployment is cut in half

ZOOM ON AN INITIATIVE

Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs– Med4Jobs



- Job Orientation
- ① a change in the mindset of the Society + the extended family.
 - ② Job orientations to start in school right before they choose their Uni Specialization
 - ③ Lack of role models, or anyone that kids can look up to.
 - ④ Lack of Specialization "Jack of all trades, Master of none"
 - ⑤ the private sector to be more involved in Youth Career

OBJECTIVES

Med4Jobs is a cross-sector initiative driven by the need for an integrated regional initiative in the area of job creation. It has been developed by the UfM Secretariat to help increase the employability of youth and women, close the gap between labour demand and supply, and foster a culture of entrepreneurship and private sector development. It covers both the supply and demand sides of the labour market, with an approach built on three pillars of action:

- ✿ **Employability:** enhancing the employability of priority sections of society – women, young people – by identifying and up-scaling successful training experiences across the region, which address the mismatch between skills and labour market needs.
- ✿ **Job intermediation:** improving information flows between job seekers and employers by replicating successful job facilitation and intermediation experiences.
- ✿ **Business-enabling infrastructure:** providing coaching to start-ups and SMEs through the development of business enabling infrastructures (incubators, coaching programmes, etc.).

Med4Jobs also serves as a regional platform for dialogue on employment, sharing of best practices, stakeholder interaction and collaboration.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- ✿ Increased number of private sector job creation projects
- ✿ Creation of new job opportunities and enhanced regional development
- ✿ Positive impact on the employment rate among young people and women

EXPERTS To interview the UfM experts, please contact us at media@ufmsecretariat.org / +34 935 214 198



Sherif Younis
Senior Financial
& Trade Advisor
Egypt



Fawzi Dib
Senior Advisor for Economic
Development and SMEs
Algeria



Kevin Bortz
Managing Director of
Financial Operations

Seconded from
EBRD

Med4Jobs PROJECTS

- ✿ **Generation Entrepreneur** - Sustaining an environment of entrepreneurship by providing business skills training to youth
- ✿ **Maharat Med** - Developing youth employability & entrepreneurial skills to transform job seekers into job creators
- ✿ **MedNC-New Chance Mediterranean Network** - Promoting exchange of best practices among centres working for the socio-professional integration of young people
- ✿ **HOMERe** High Opportunity for Mediterranean Executive Recruitment - Using internship mobility to combat the skills mismatch
- ✿ **Mediterranean Entrepreneurship Network** - Mentoring and support for new-business starters
- ✿ **Young Women as Job Creators** - Promoting entrepreneurship among young women about to graduate from university
- ✿ **Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes** - New regional centre of excellence for higher education, research and innovation
- ✿ **Skills for Success** - Employability skills focusing on disadvantaged and unemployed women
- ✿ **Promoting women empowerment for inclusive and sustainable industrial development** in the MENA region
- ✿ **CEED GROW** - Growing and scaling SMEs with a particular focus on women
- ✿ **YouMatch - Toolbox Project** / Knowledge-share platform to improve sustainable job matching for young people.
- ✿ **Regional Platform for the Development of Cultural and Creative Industries and Clusters**



Transport and Urban Development

Facilitating transport and mobility over land & sea
Promoting sustainable and innovative urban projects



POLICY FRAMEWORK

- ☞ UfM Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Urban Development (Cairo, 21-22 May 2017);
- ☞ UfM Ministerial Conference on Transport (Brussels, 14 November 2013);
- ☞ Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development (Strasbourg, 10 November 2011).

PRIORITIES

- ☞ Develop a regional transport network fostering socio-economic development and regional integration.
- ☞ Advance the new UfM Urban Agenda, fostering inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable urban development.
- ☞ Enhance regional dialogue efforts bringing together UfM Member States and key partners and stakeholders for effective cooperation.
- ☞ Support flagship projects with structuring and regional long-term impact
- ☞ Provide technical support and mobilise financing instruments in particular from IFIs



“The improvement of the living conditions in our region, where urban growth is rapidly increasing due to demographic and environmental pressure, is key to sustainable development. Optimizing trade routes over land and sea and facilitating closer cooperation among Member States are crucial to foster long-term sustainable economic growth. The promotion of flagship initiatives in the field of transport, especially in maritime transport, as well as of sustainable and innovative urban projects, which serve as best practice examples, remains as one of the main priorities on the UfM agenda”

**Amb. Ihab Fahmy - Deputy Secretary General for Transport and Urban Development
Egypt**



Insufficient logistics can cause a loss estimated at **6%** per year in trade volume between countries



The low-level economic integration in the Maghreb region has been estimated to result in a loss of **2-3%** of the annual **GDP**



€60 million investment in urban infrastructures is the estimated amount the region will need in the next **20 years**



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ZOOM ON AN INITIATIVE

Imbaba Project in the
framework of the Urban
Projects
Finance Initiative
(UPFI)



OBJECTIVES

- ✱ The main objective is to strengthen the integration of Imbaba, one of the most populated and unplanned urban areas of Egypt in the city of Cairo
- ✱ This urban redevelopment project will provide new basic public facilities, job and revenue-creating activities as well as public spaces. Two public service centres will thus be created in Kawmeya and neighbouring zones will be developed through restoration of buildings, improved roads and upgrading of essential services (water, energy, sanitation, etc.). The project is also exploring the feasibility of a development plan for the urban zone to the west of the ring road, which has been strongly impacted by the expansion of irregular settlements.
- ✱ The Imbaba project is the first flagship project to be carried out within the scope of the Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI). The Initiative is aimed at promoting and developing sustainable and innovative urban projects in the Euro-Mediterranean region that serve as best practice examples and are potentially replicable.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- ✱ The project is a model of sustainable urban redevelopment of a precarious neighbourhood in Cairo, which is also the most densely inhabited in Egypt.
- ✱ Redevelopment of 70 hectares of the district.
- ✱ 1 million inhabitants benefitting from the project.

EXPERTS To interview the UfM experts, please contact us at media@ufmsecretariat.org / +34 935 214 198



Guy Fleuret
Managing Director
for Urban Development
France



Francesc Carbonell
Project Manager
for Transport
Spain



Victoria Jimenez
Project Manager
for Urban Development
Spain



Pakize Adalioglu
Expert
Turkey

OTHER PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- ✱ **LOGISMED Training Activities** Reinforcing transport and logistics competitiveness and improving the qualifications of logistics personnel.
- ✱ **Trans-Maghreb Motorway Axis** Improving regional integration and socio-economic development through the completion of the motorway corridor between Agadir in Morocco and Ras Jedir in Libya.
- ✱ **Jordanian Railway Network** Integrating the Jordanian railway system with a future regional network.
- ✱ **Motorway of Sea services between Turkey, Italy and Tunisia** Fostering trade relations through intermodal connectivity.
- ✱ **Optimed Implementation: Towards a New Mediterranean Corridor** Optimising trade connections among the ports of the Mediterranean region.
- ✱ **UPFI Sfax-Taparura** Ambitious integrated urban development creating a new-mixed use neighbourhood.
- ✱ **UPFI Bouregreg Valley** An integrated and sustainable development approach strengthening territorial cohesion in Morocco.
- ✱ **UPFI Jericho** A multi-site urban regeneration project in Palestine.
- ✱ **UPFI Izmir** Implementing exemplary, innovative and environmentally sound waste management in Turkey



Social & Civil Affairs

Fostering gender equality and women's socio-economic empowerment



Employability & Inclusive Growth

Women's Empowerment

POLICY FRAMEWORK

☞ UfM Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society (Paris, 11-12 September 2013).

PRIORITIES

- ☼ Build and consolidate a regional common agenda to empower youth and women as main drivers for the region's development and stability.
- ☼ Enhance economic, social and civic participation of women and youth, as a key human development asset to build more inclusive and sustainable societies.



“ The UfM is a regional platform to enhance human development especially through the empowerment of youth and women. It is a place to share ideas and good practices and to implement tangible projects. Youth and women are at the heart of the Mediterranean agenda because they can act as catalysts for economic growth and social welfare if the right environment is developed for them in the region. Responding to youth's and women's needs, and enhancing civil society participation are the main priorities of the UfM Secretariat, which aims at putting the human being at the heart of its mission.

**Amb. Delphine Borione - Senior Deputy Secretary General for Social and Civil Affairs
France**



The **MENA** region could increase its **GDP** per capita nearly **25%** by promoting women's economic empowerment



Companies with the highest percentages of women board directors obtain **66%** higher Return on Invested capital



Only **1.2 %** of managers in the MENA region are women, compared to the worldwide average of **18.6 %**



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ZOOM ON AN INITIATIVE

Promoting Women's Empowerment for inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the MENA region



WOMEN
AS JOB
CREATORS

gasnatural
fenosa

NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

European
Investment
Bank

Women's
Empowerment

OBJECTIVES

- ☼ The project, promoted by UNIDO, is seeking to enhance women's economic inclusion and create favourable conditions for sustainable and inclusive growth by harnessing the great potential of women entrepreneurs in the targeted countries.

- ☼ The project will offer technical assistance to the women entrepreneurs to create and grow their businesses, through national business women associations. It will facilitate and accompany an inclusive policy dialogue between the key stakeholders to produce a set of recommendations and actions endorsed by all parties to promote an enabling environment for women's entrepreneurship in the region. It will also promote women-led investments through training, coaching, identification and facilitation of business partnership opportunities and access to finance.

BENEFICIARIES

- ☼ 2000 female entrepreneurs and 7 national business women's associations.

RESULTS

- ☼ **2000** women entrepreneurs trained and counselled on entrepreneurship development and business plan formulation.
- ☼ A MENA Mediterranean Consortium of Women Business Associations is created.
- ☼ **500 women-led promising business opportunities promoted** through national, regional and international business networks and investment banks.
- ☼ **800 new jobs created** by assisted women-led companies.

EXPERTS To interview the UfM experts, please contact us at media@ufmsecretariat.org / +34 935 214 198



Fatiha Hassouni
Programme Manager
Morocco



Meriem El Hilali
Diplomatic Advisor
Morocco

OTHER PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- ☼ **Skills for Success – Employability Skills for Women** focusing on disadvantaged, unemployed and secondary-level educated women
- ☼ **Developing Women Empowerment** - strategic, long-term approach to foster gender equality in the region
- ☼ **Forming Responsible Citizens** – Promoting citizenship education to prevent school violence, particularly against girls
- ☼ **CEED Grow** – Growing and scaling Small and Medium sized businesses
- ☼ **WOMED** – Next generation of leaders
- ☼ **Women's Economic Empowerment** in the MENA Region
- ☼ **Women's right to health** – The WORTH Project



Higher Education & Research

Improving student mobility and employability through cooperation in education and research



Youth
Employability
& Inclusive
Growth

Women's
Empowerment

POLICY FRAMEWORK

- ☞ Ministerial Conference on Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean cooperation through Research and Innovation (Valletta, 4 May 2017);
- ☞ Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Research and Innovation (Barcelona, 2 April 2012);
- ☞ First Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Higher Education and Scientific Research (Cairo, 18 June 2007).

PRIORITIES

- ⊗ Build a new regional strategy on university cooperation and youth mobility;
- ⊗ Foster regional initiatives and projects in the field of vocational training;
- ⊗ Consolidate regional centers for Euro-Mediterranean Education and Higher Education, in particular the newly established Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes;
- ⊗ Facilitate Scientific Research integration across the Mediterranean.

“The UfM Secretariat is committed to deepen cooperation and integration in research and innovation among UfM countries and to consolidate the role of the UfM as a regional platform, facilitator and driving force of cooperation between Higher Education Institutions. Their contribution to counteracting radicalization, promoting a Euro-Mediterranean identity for new generations of students and equipping them with the skills needed in the region is central and needs to be further supported.”

Emmanuelle Gardan - Programme Manager for Higher Education and Research



40% of employers in the MENA region identify **skills shortages** as a major constraint to their business operations and growth



Young people not enrolled in education, employment or training (“NEETs”) is a growing concern in the region, with national rates ranging from **15% to 31%** for the **15-29** agegroup



By **2030** gross enrolment rates in higher education are expected to rise up to **40%**



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ZOOM ON AN INITIATIVE

Euro-Mediterranean
University of Fes



Youth
Employability
& Inclusive
Growth

Women's
Empowerment

OBJECTIVES

The Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes stands as a new regional centre of excellence contributing to regional stability and integration through the promotion of dialogue, intercultural exchange, sharing of knowledge and cooperation in the fields of higher education, research and innovation. Its particular regional approach is reflected in the diversity of nationalities of the students and staff as well as in the contents of study programmes, which focus on important topics for the integrated development of the Mediterranean region.

Framed within the UfM cross-sectorial **Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4Jobs)**, it aims at building a new generation of young people with a unique Euro-Mediterranean profile, who can actively play a role towards transforming the region from their future positions in an effective and cooperative way between both shores of the Mediterranean.

RESULTS

- 7,000 students from across the Euro-Mediterranean region and Sub-Saharan Africa enrolled in 2024.
- 650 highly qualified professors, researchers, administrative and technical personnel employed.
- 80% of students participate in mobility experiences abroad.
- 20% of students granted with full or partial scholarships.
- 26ha eco-friendly and world-class campus constructed.
- MAD 70,000 (approx. EUR 6,250): annual tuition fees.

EXPERTS To interview the UfM experts, please contact us at media@ufmsecretariat.org / +34 935 214 198



Emmanuelle Gardan
Programme Manager
France



Núria Jové
Project Analyst
Spain

OTHER PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- Euro-Mediterranean Master and PhD programmes (EMUNI).**
- EMIS** – Eastern Mediterranean International School.
- HOMERe** High Opportunity for Mediterranean Executive Recruitment Using internship mobility to combat the skills mismatch.
- Higher Education on **Food Security and Rural Development.**
- MedNC-New Chance Mediterranean Network** Promoting exchange of best practices among centres working for the socio-professional integration of young people.
- UfM regional dialogue on higher education internationalisation and academic mobility in the Euro-Mediterranean area.



Water & Environment

Promoting water and environment projects for a sustainable future in the Mediterranean



POLICY FRAMEWORK

- ☞ UfM Ministerial Meeting on Water (Valleta, 27 April 2017).
- ☞ UfM Ministerial Conference on Blue Economy (Brussels, 17 November 2015).
- ☞ UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change (Athens, 13 May 2014).
- ☞ Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean (previously called H2020 Initiative for the De-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea).
- ☞ Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial on Water (Jordan, December 2008).

PRIORITIES

- ⊗ Promote access to water resources and water management;
- ⊗ Protect the Mediterranean Sea and environment, contributing to de-pollution and pollution prevention efforts in the region;
- ⊗ Promote green/blue economy.



“Mediterranean countries face growing challenges due to the increasing water scarcity and depletion of natural resources, further exacerbated by climate pressures. With a view to contributing to the sustainable development agenda and goals, the Union for the Mediterranean is uniquely placed as an intergovernmental organization to address common threats to our environment and to support the socio-economic development of the region. Along with the policy recommendations and lines of action agreed by the 43 UfM countries, the UfM Secretariat will work towards a reinforced partnership to promote access and sustainable management of water resources, support efforts for a cleaner Mediterranean, as well as to promote a healthy and sustainable model of growth for the whole region tapping on the potential offered by blue and green economy”

**Miguel Garcia-Herraiz - Deputy Secretary General of Water and Environment
Spain**



Marine debris :

The estimated cost for coastal and beach clean-ups across the EU is of approx. **€630 million** per year



More than **180 million** people in the region are considered water poor and an additional **60 million** face water stress



Countries in the Southern Mediterranean receive only **10%** of the total annual rainfall average



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ZOOM ON AN INITIATIVE

Programme for
Protection of Lake
Bizerte against
Pollution



OBJECTIVES

Through an integrated approach tackling all main sources of pollution, the project aims to rehabilitate the environment and water quality of Lake Bizerte through depollution efforts and improving aquatic life as well as living conditions for the surrounding populations.

The project will help to eliminate the main sources of pollution contaminating the lake and affecting the bordering communities to guarantee a healthy environment and allow for a better quality of life and for the development of sustainable urban and economic activities, such as agriculture, industry, tourism, aquaculture and fisheries.

RESULTS

- ⊗ Improved sanitary and environmental conditions for an estimated 400,000 inhabitants living close to the sources of pollution (531,000 in the entire Governorate)
- ⊗ Improved conditions for sustainable industrial production for three large state-owned and more than 20 public and private companies
- ⊗ Access to sanitation for 10,000 people in urban areas and 26,000 in rural areas
- ⊗ Development of activities and local employment opportunities in the fields of sewage, waste management, fisheries and agriculture
- ⊗ Strengthened know-how of actors as well as potential for initiatives from local NGOs

EXPERTS To interview the UfM experts, please contact us at media@ufmsecretariat.org / +34 935 214 198



Almotaz Abadi
Managing Director
Palestine



Alessandra Sensi
Senior Programme Manager
Italy



Raffaele Mancini
Blue Economy Expert
Italy

OTHER PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- ⊗ **Desalination Facility** for the Gaza Strip
- ⊗ **Governance and Financing in the Mediterranean Water Sector**
- ⊗ **Mediterranean Knowledge Platform for Water**
- ⊗ **Mediterranean Post Rio+20** - supporting the adoption of resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production
- ⊗ **Blue Green Networking Civil Society** in the Mediterranean through environment and water issues
- ⊗ **Capacity Building Programme on Water Integrity** in the Middle East and North Africa



Energy & Climate Action

Boosting the development of sustainable energy market. Addressing challenges of climate change



POLICY FRAMEWORK

- ☞ UfM Ministerial Meeting on Energy (Rome, 1 December 2016);
- ☞ Energy Regional Cooperation, UfM Senior Officials Decision (Brussels, 31 March 2015);
- ☞ UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change (Athens, 13 May 2014);
- ☞ UfM Ministerial Meeting Energy (Brussels, 11 December 2013).

PRIORITIES

- ☼ Reinforce a structured regional dialogue on energy and climate change among Member States, regional organisations, financial institutions, industry and experts
- ☼ Support project promotion from identification of priorities until implementation with appropriate resources
- ☼ Promote the replicability of the projects in the region



“Renewable energies and energy efficiency offer a unique opportunity for countries to reduce their vulnerability in terms of energy security—which is at the top of the international political agenda-, building climate resilience in our societies and fostering the transition to new sustainable development models. Thanks to its regional policy dialogue platforms as well as its flagships projects, the UfM offers a unique opportunity to support a comprehensive approach, including markets issues and national policies, towards the energy transition challenges.”

**Jorge Borrego - Deputy Secretary General Energy and Climate Action
Portugal**



23.3 million:
The number of people without access to electricity in the MENA region



Over the next **30** years, the total estimated investment on energy needed in the **MENA** region will be over **\$30 billion** per year



The implementation of renewable energy projects will increase its production by **365% in 2020** based on national targets



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ZOOM ON AN INITIATIVE

SPREF (SEMed Private
Renewable Energy
Framework)



OBJECTIVES

- ⌘ Stimulate the development of private renewable energy markets in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan
- ⌘ Act as a facility to provide efficient financing mechanisms and targeted technical cooperation support for the implementation of renewable energy projects in the region
- ⌘ Support countries to meet their renewable energy targets and avoid CO2 emissions

RESULTS

- ⌘ SPREF is expected to lead to an increase in the amount of electricity generated from renewable sources by private companies
- ⌘ Increase the number of private sector players in the electricity sectors of the four countries
- ⌘ Contribution to the development of renewable energy targets set by beneficiary countries
- ⌘ SPREF is projected to avoid 780,000 tons of CO2 emissions annually

BENEFICIARIES

- ⌘ Private international and local energy companies
- ⌘ Companies or individuals who purchase electricity directly from the producer (also known as off-takers).
- ⌘ Policymakers

EXPERTS To interview the UfM experts, please contact us at media@ufmsecretariat.org / +34 935 214 198



Nicolas Debaisieux
Climate Change Advisor
France



Olgu Okumus
Project Manager
Turkey

OTHER PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- ⌘ UfM Climate Change Expert Group
- ⌘ UfM Energy Platforms (Gas; Regional Electricity Markets; Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency)
- ⌘ UfM Energy University by Schneider Electric 200 free online course for professionals





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