



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

***12th Annual Conference of the Arab Forum for
Environment and Development (AFED)
14 -15 November 2019, Beirut***



SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

- **Education** – incl. schooling, awareness raising, improved public access to information and participation, research and innovation, knowledge sharing, etc. – is key to enable inclusive transitions to sustainable development.
- Basic education has improved and literacy rates have increased throughout the two last decades in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (SEMCs), as a results of policies to generalize access to education.
- Girls’ education has also improved in SEMCs, with an increased gender parity index of the enrolment rate in primary and secondary schools in most Mediterranean countries.

SDG Target	SDG Indicator
<p>4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through <u>education for sustainable development</u> and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development</p>	<p>4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) <u>education for sustainable development</u>, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment</p>

ESD as an integral part of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)

- The MSSD promotes education, awareness raising and research for sustainable development (Strategic Direction 6.4), in particular through the implementation of the MSED.
- MSED encourages the Mediterranean countries to develop and incorporate education on sustainable development into their formal education systems and in non-formal and informal education.
- This will equip people with knowledge of and skills on sustainable development and environmental protection, making them more competent and confident and increasing their opportunities for acting for a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature and with concern for social values, gender equity and cultural diversity.
- Mediterranean Committee for ESD created in 2016 to facilitate the implementation of the Strategy, with support from IGOs:



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UNECE



Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 promotes education, awareness-raising and research for sustainable development. It also encourages the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD), which is also referred to in the Athens Ministerial Declaration of the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols by which they “resolve to enhance public awareness and the role of education promoting sustainability and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Mediterranean”.

Background

The MSESD is the first regional strategy on ESD prepared on the basis of the ESD Strategy of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), adopted in 2005.

The Strategy was drafted through a participatory process carried out under the scientific and technical coordination of the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean, with the support of the Mediterranean Educational Initiative on Environment and Sustainability (MedIES) of the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSD).

The process involved experts from Universities, Governments, Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organisations, from the North and the South of the

Mediterranean. Many of the consultations for the development of the MSESD were organised under the EU-funded Horizon 2020 Capacity Building / Mediterranean Environment Programme.

The MSESD was endorsed in 2014 by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change.



Objectives

- Ensure that policy, legislation and other regulatory and operational frameworks support ESD;
- Promote sustainable development through formal, non-formal and informal learning;
- Equip educators with the competence to include sustainable development in their teaching;
- Ensure that adequate tools and materials for ESD are accessible
- Promote research on and development of ESD;
- Strengthen cooperation on ESD at all levels, including exchange of experience and technologies within the Mediterranean region.



The implementation of the MSESD is driven by countries' priorities and initiatives addressing their specific needs and circumstances and serves as a flexible framework for the fulfillment of their regional/global but also national agendas.

Leadership and partnership

- National focal points to ensure efficient regional governance and communication;
- Mediterranean Committee for ESD created in 2016 to facilitate the implementation of the Strategy;
- Members: Cyprus (Chair), Croatia, Greece, Jordan, Malta, Portugal, the League of Arab States, UfM, UNESCO, UN Environment/MAP, and UNECE.

Main achievements

The MSESD Action Plan was adopted by the Conference of Ministers of Education (Nicosia, Cyprus, 8-9 December 2016) co-organised by the Government of Cyprus and the EU-funded SWIM-H2020 support mechanism Programme. The Action Plan mobilizes the Strategy through concrete activities and strategic directions, identifying four implementation areas in a comprehensive and concise way:

1. The priority areas for institutional and operational interventions, with recommended activities and an indicative roadmap;
2. A set of identified common regional programmes and projects of institutional and non-thematic nature;
3. The priority thematic areas for region-wide programmes;
4. Proposed indicators for monitoring the progress.

During the Conference, UNESCO, UfM, UN Environment/MAP, the League of Arab States (LAS) and UNECE, further committed to promoting and streamlining the MSESD and the Action Plan priorities and actions in their respective agendas and work programmes:

- The Action Plan is included among the Flagship Projects of the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD (2015-2019). UNESCO acknowledged its importance in the Review Forum for GAP on ESD (March 2017).
- The 1st meeting of the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (March 2017) agreed to “Stress the importance of working to increase awareness and education on environmental and Climate Change issues, including by supporting the implementation of the Action Plan of the MSESD”.

The EU SWIM-H2020 project supported capacity-building activities related to the promotion of the Action Plan, including four training-of-trainers sessions held in 2017 in Jordan, Palestine, Tunisia, and Algeria, and a major regional workshop on ESD in Cyprus (22-24 November 2017) which provided senior educators with the opportunity to meet and exchange views with the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD), the media, and other stakeholders from the Mediterranean countries. Significant achievements are observed also in Malta where the National Plan on Sustainable Management of Water has taken into account the MSESD and, in Cyprus where the overall National ESD Plan has been effectively linked with the Strategy.

Challenges and the way forward

- ESD although widely recognized as a prerequisite for the promotion of sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), does not yet receive the needed political backing and therefore, is still not fully and homogeneously developed throughout the Mediterranean region.
- Appropriate integration of ESD messages and content into the curricula of Primary and Secondary Education is needed, albeit they are frequently overloaded.
- Better coordination is needed between formal and non-formal/informal ESD initiatives which are frequently supervised by different Ministries: Education, Environment, Health, etc.
- Availability of adequate human and financial resources is lacking: needs for training and retraining a critical mass of educators.

Resources

MSESD: <https://tinyurl.com/yce58r4t>
 Nicosia Declaration: <https://tinyurl.com/y77a3znh>
 MSESD Action Plan: <https://tinyurl.com/yowakjje>
 SWIM-H2020: www.swim-h2020.eu
 MedIES: www.medies.net
 Ministerial Conference: www.esdmedcyprus.pi.ac.cy

UfM: The Euro-Mediterranean intergovernmental institution

43 member countries

28 EU member states

15 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries



MISSION

To enhance regional cooperation and dialogue through the implementation of concrete projects and initiatives addressing human development, stability and integration.

UfM: Governance



Jordan and the EU are Co-Presidents since 2012



UfM Co-Presidency

Co-ownership:

The Co-Presidency ensures coherence of activities as well as equal footing and representation of **North** and **South**

UfM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM)

Governing Body:

Trimestral meetings of the Ambassadors of the **43 countries**



The UfM Secretariat is the operational institution that empowers the regional dialogue between the UfM Member States and stakeholders for the promotion of regional cooperation projects and initiatives

UfM Secretariat

- 1** Secretary General from the South
- 6** Deputy Secretary Generals (3 from the North and 3 from the South)
- 60** Diplomats, technical experts and project managers from **+15 countries and institutions**

UfM | The Euro-Mediterranean Community

The UfM Secretariat builds relationships and synergies with all the members of the Euro-Mediterranean community and other relevant stakeholders.



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Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises
Union Méditerranéenne des Confédérations d'Entreprises



ASSOCIATION DE CHAMBRES DE COMMERCE ET D'INDUSTRIE DE LA MEDITERRANEE
ASSOCIATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
جمعية غرف التجارة والصناعة للبحر الأبيض المتوسط



الجامعة الأوروبية للمتوسطية بفاس
EURO-MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITY OF FES
UNIVERSITÉ EURO-MEDITERRANÉENNE DE FES



Partnership for Action - Union for the Mediterranean



Assemblée Régionale et Locale Euro-Méditerranéenne
Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly

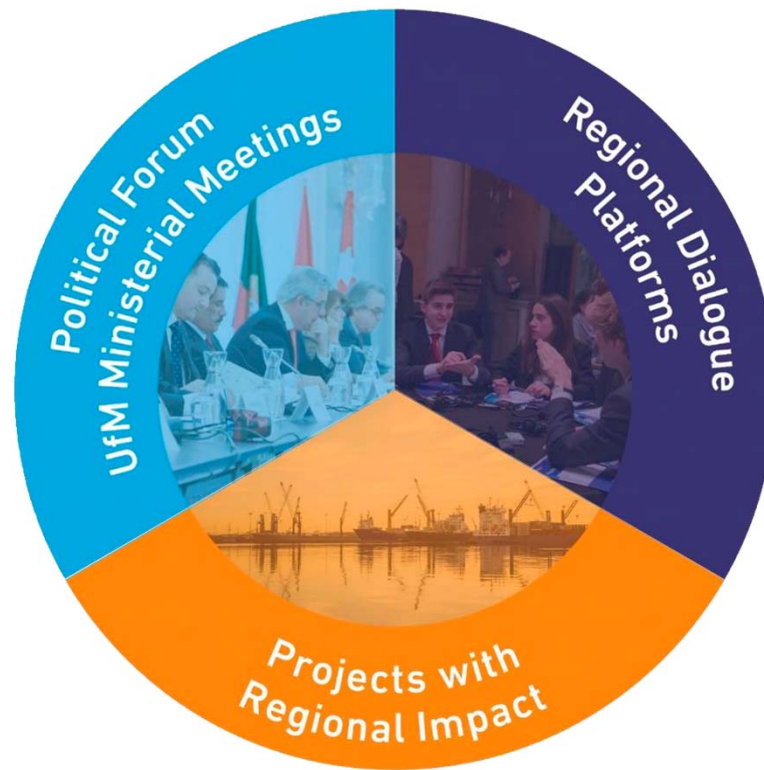


European Economic
and Social Council



Anna Lindh
Foundation
EUROMED

The 3 P's: Policies in Action – Strategic Objectives



UfM | Political Fora to enhance regional dialogue

Ministerial meetings define the priorities of UfM work through the adoption of common agendas in key strategic areas

- ✔ Give political impetus
- ✔ Set regional priorities
- ✔ Consolidate action-oriented approach



UfM | Political Fora to enhance regional dialogue

Human Development

- ✓ **Employment and Labour**, Portugal 2019 & Jordan 2016
- ✓ **Strengthening the role of Women in Society**, Egypt 2017 & France 2013
- ✓ **Regional Cooperation and Planning**, Jordan 2016
- ✓ **Digital Economy**, Spain 2014
- ✓ **Industrial Cooperation**, Belgium 2014

Sustainable Development

- ✓ **Trade**, Belgium 2018
- ✓ **Sustainable Urban Development**, Egypt 2017
- ✓ **Water**, Malta 2017
- ✓ **Energy**, Italy 2016 & Belgium 2013
- ✓ **Blue Economy**, Belgium 2015
- ✓ **Industrial Cooperation**, Belgium 2014
- ✓ **Environment and Climate Change**, Greece 2014
- ✓ **Transport**, Belgium 2013

✓ **UfM Regional Forum - Ministers of Foreign Affairs**, Spain 2015, 2017 & 2018

UfM | Political Fora to enhance regional dialogue

Regional developments more
connected to the Action Plan of the
MSESD

Close association to the **Euro-Mediterranean Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation on Research and Innovation** (Valletta, Malta, 2017)

Three main pillars:

- **PRIMA** (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area): Develops solutions for a more sustainable management of water and agro-food systems
- **BLUEMED**: Research and innovation Initiative for promoting the blue economy in the Mediterranean Basin through cooperation. It is the strategy of reference for the Mediterranean countries to work together for a healthy, safe and productive Mediterranean Sea
- Research on the **deep roots of migration**

UfM | Political Fora to enhance regional dialogue

Regional developments more
connected to the Action Plan of the
MSESD

**The Fourth Ministerial Conference on Research,
Innovation and Higher Education of the Dialogue
5+5, 10 June 2019, Rome, Italy.**

5+5 Dialogue countries adopt a new set of priorities
and a work programme 2019-2020, promoting
sustainable economic growth, social inclusion and
creating new opportunities for the youth in Western
Mediterranean Region

The UfM and the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MESD)

Formal endorsement of the **Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)** by the **Union for the Mediterranean Ministers of the Environment and Climate Change in Athens**, on 13 May 2014, on the occasion of the first UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change.

“Ministers recognise the importance of **education and awareness** as a prerequisite to address the **environment** and climate-related challenges and therefore endorse the **Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development** annexed to this Declaration, and encourage all countries, stakeholders and media in the region to implement it in the best way possible”

(Declaration of the UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change, Athens, 2014)

A **facilitation role** on the promotion, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Strategy.

Role of the UfM in the MESD

*“The **Secretariat of the UfM** (UfMS), supported scientifically/technically by **MEDIES** will facilitate its promotion, implementation, monitoring and reporting on progress. A 5-year Action Plan will be developed for the promotion of regional and subregional activities on ESD, including capacity building activities at national level, taking into account the **Global Action Programme of ESD** as a follow-up of DESD after 2014. The implementation of the Strategy at regional level will be financed by voluntary contribution of States, intergovernmental organizations, and any other source, public or private, with genuine interest in ESD (formal, non-formal and informal). “*
Mediterranean Strategy on Education For Sustainable Development (MSESD)

Role of the UfM in the MESD

Priority thematic issues for ESD in the Mediterranean region where the UfM is more involved:

1. Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation building on the guidelines issued by UNESCO and UNFCCC
2. Alternative Energy Sources; Energy footprint
3. Biodiversity; Sustainable management of Protected Areas; Ecosystem services
5. Cultural Diversity, Heritage and the values it carries, with due attention to the importance of native languages and indigenous traditions
6. Empowerment of Women and Youth
7. Integrated Water Resources Management; Non Conventional Water Resources (NCWRs)
8. Marine Resources; Blue/Green Economy; Fisheries; Marine litter; Integrated Coastal Zone Management
9. Migration and Refugees Crisis - direct and indirect impacts including rights of displaced populations
12. Sustainable cities; Urban environment
13. Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns
14. Waste Management; Life Cycle of Products; Recycling
15. Sustainable Tourism
16. Private Sector and Public Private Synergies for SD (e.g. Corporate Social Responsibility-CSR)

Role of the UfM in the Action Plan

Priority Area 8 [Articles 61-62]: **Support cooperation on ESD at the regional level** to review and facilitate the implementation of the Strategy.

Recommended Activities (till the end of 2019):

Follow closely and synergise with international and regional processes (e.g. UNESCO/GAP, **UfM**, MSSD, SDGs), that could enhance the implementation of the MSES and, in particular, through:

- i. the co-operation of the countries at regional level.
- ii. the active involvement of the Mediterranean region in contributing to the ESD agenda at global level.

Priority Area 11 [Article 66]: Experiences and needs vary in different parts of the Mediterranean region. **Subregional cooperation needs to be strengthened.**

Recommended Activities:

Subregional programmes such as those related to: 5+5 for the Western Mediterranean subregion on Water, the Ionian-Adriatic initiative, etc., need to develop or synergise with educational components. Also the already labelled under the **UfM “Blue-Green Med Project”** with partnership of several regional CSOs under the UfM needs to be supported and implemented (till the end of 2019). Exchange and share the good practices in ESD produced by the aforementioned processes.

UfM | Platforms for regional policy dialogue

Regional dialogue platforms involve 25.000+ stakeholders, coming from:

- ✔ Governments
- ✔ International and regional organisations
- ✔ International Financial Institutions and donors
- ✔ Local authorities
- ✔ Universities and Think Tanks
- ✔ Private sector
- ✔ Civil society





Based on the orientations provided by Ministerial mandates, the platforms provide an opportunity to:

- ✓ Recommend and define priorities
- ✓ Promote a Mediterranean Agenda
- ✓ Exchange on regional challenges and share best practices
- ✓ Increase regulatory harmonisation
- ✓ Identify concrete actions

Regional dialogue platforms are structured around the following sectors:

Human Development

- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Women empowerment
- ✓ Industrial Cooperation
- ✓ Inclusive growth & employability
- ✓ Education & Youth mobility
- ✓ SMEs & Business development

Sustainable Development

- ✓ Climate Change
- ✓ Energy
- ✓ Transport
- ✓ Urban Development
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ Blue Economy
- ✓ Infrastructure Connectivity

150+ high level conferences, thematic workshops & expert groups

120+ high level conferences, thematic workshops & expert groups

New developments more connected to the Action Plan of the MSESD

Regional policy dialogue based on
the orientations provided by
Ministerial Conferences

2nd Meeting of the Mediterranean Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Heraklion, Greece, 24-26 June 2019

Countries reviewed their ongoing best practices on how they were implementing ESD nationally.

Positive examples were shared and implementation was discussed. Proceedings in preparation.

The events were held on occasion of the nomination of Asterousia, Crete, to join the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the Man and the Biosphere Programme of UNESCO.

New developments more connected to the Action Plan of the MSESD

Regional policy dialogue based on
the orientations provided by
Ministerial Conferences

UfM Climate Week

Barcelona, 9-11 April 2019

Discussed: climate change on agriculture; climate finance; a scientific assessment on the risks of climate change

Hosted:

- The third General Assembly meeting of the **Mediterranean Youth Climate Network**;
- The seventh meeting of the **UfM Climate Change Expert Group** (UfM CCEG)
- Presentation of scientific report **“Risks associated to climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean region”**, carried out by the MedECC network (Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change)

Organisation of the next UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change: potentially be held in 2020.

New developments more connected to the Action Plan of the MSESD

Regional policy dialogue based on
the orientations provided by
Ministerial Conferences

24th Euro-Mediterranean Group of Senior Officials on Research and Innovation

Barcelona, 25 November 2019

- Regular annual meeting with representatives from Ministries on Research and Innovation from the Euro-Mediterranean region discussing the advancement of regional cooperation on issues of common interest.

Hosted for the first time by the UfM

New developments more connected to the Action Plan of the MSESD

Regional policy dialogue based on
the orientations provided by
Ministerial Conferences

Sustainable Food System (SFS) Platform

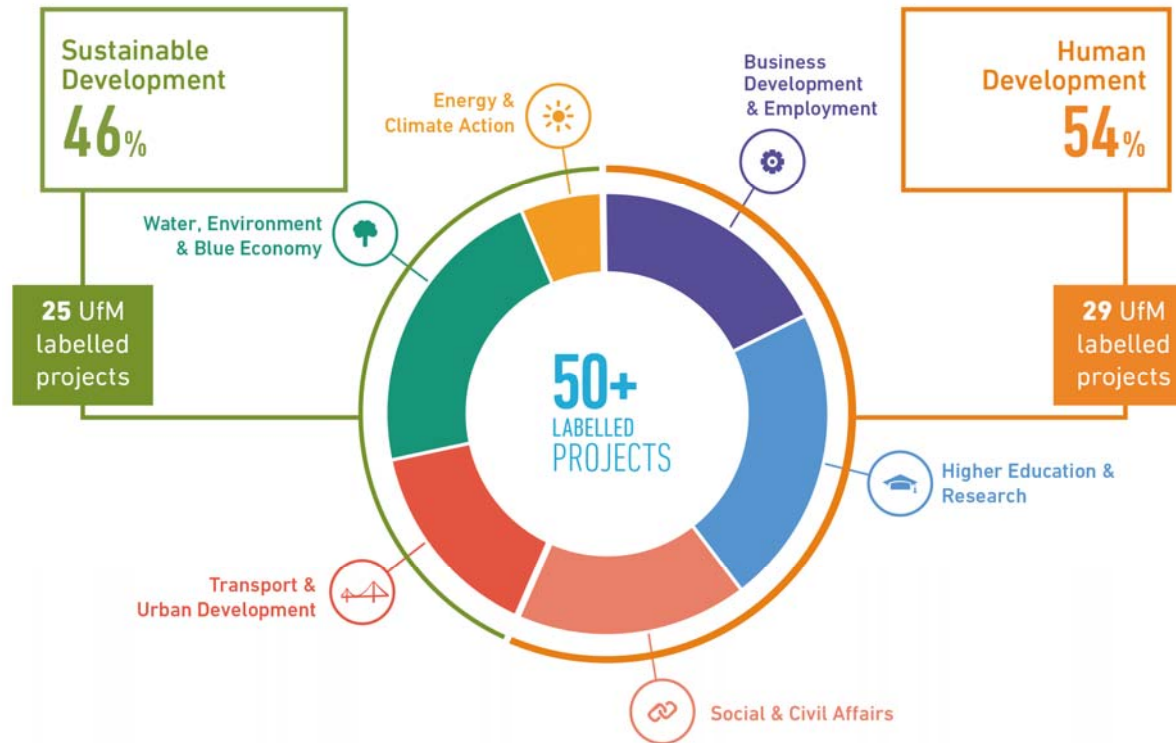
- Ongoing project co-developed with **CIHEAM** and **FAO**
- Launched at the **2nd World Conference on the Revitalization of the Mediterranean Diet (Palermo, 15-17 May 2019)**
- Technical Assistance on Sustainable Consumption and Production: Mediterranean diet as a lever for bridging consumption and production in a sustainable and healthy way in the Mediterranean region

Promotion of **green and blue entrepreneurship, new curricula** connected to the needs of private sector in rural and coastal areas, internships, to be adapted to local realities in rural and coastal areas

UfM | Projects with a regional impact

50+ regional cooperation projects have been labelled, worth more than €5 billion





The Promoters of UfM-labelled Projects



Human development
Concrete benefits for youth in the region

Zoom on an initiative

Med4Jobs

Achievements to date:

- ✔ Job creation in the private sector: **13 projects labelled by the UfM**
- ✔ New job opportunities and enhanced regional development: **over 800 SMEs supported**
- ✔ Positive impact on unemployment among young people and women: **100 000 young people involved** in the projects.

Activities contribute to the SDGs:



Human development

Zoom on a Project:



Environmental education activities should focus on the dissemination of theoretical knowledge but also leverage personal engagement

The Euro-Med University of Fes

A flagship project of the UfM, celebrating its sixth academic year of operation

Building a new generation of young people with a unique **Euro-Mediterranean profile**, who can play a role in transforming the region

Sustainable development in the region is a horizontal topic in their degrees, focusing on topics such as: Renewable energy & Energy Efficiency or Environmental Engineering & Water Management

Its eco-campus has been labelled by COP22 with 100% of total investment cost covered

7,000 students from across the Euro-Mediterranean region and Sub-Saharan Africa expected in 2024

Sustainable development

Zoom on a Project:



“The Mediterranean region is one of the areas most impacted by marine litter and plastic pollution in the world”

Cristina Fossi, Professor of Ecology and Ecotoxicology at the University of Siena

Plastic Busters

- ☑ Studies indicate that **by 2050 there could be more plastic than fish in the seas.**
- ☑ Following a **€5 million funding** received by the EU Interreg Med Programme, the project aims to develop a **Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management** in the Mediterranean including recommendations for **policymaking**.
- ☑ It will result, among other things, in a strengthened involvement and participation of **50-60 regional marine litter experts** and awareness campaigns carried out in at least 15 countries of the Mediterranean

Human development

Zoom on a Project:



“The programme made my life much easier as a student and as a young graduate facing the labour market. It has been very easy for me to integrate into the company and finally get recruited”

Sara El Khal, informatics engineer,
beneficiary of HOMERe

HOMERe: High Opportunity for Mediterranean Executive Recruitment

- ✓ **With an average of about 30% youth unemployment**, the region has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the world.
- ✓ HOMERe fosters **internship mobility** as a tool to combat the skills gap. It is promoted by a network of **95 universities delivering master's degrees in 16 Mediterranean countries**.
- ✓ **>400 young people**, including **50% women**, have benefitted from the project
- ✓ Project being expanded to **Blue Economy** internships

Sustainable development

Zoom on a Project:



“Youth is already at the forefront of climate action. With their boundless energy and desire to take action, many young people want to become an even stronger vehicle for societal change”

Hajar Khamlichi, President of the MYCN

Mediterranean Youth Climate Network

- ✓ The average temperature in the Mediterranean region has already **risen by 1.5°C** compared to pre-industrial levels, which was the recommended limit set by the Paris Agreement in 2015.
- ✓ **The network aims to become the Mediterranean reference platform for youth-led initiatives** through a mapping and gathering of youth-led projects as well as the creation of a Youth Climate Fund.
- ✓ It is composed of **7 climate-related associations**, coming from all over the Mediterranean countries

Sustainable development

Zoom on a Project:



BlueSkills

- ✔ A comprehensive training for the long-term education and immediate up-skilling experience, circular mobility and knowledge transfer.
- ✔ 11 institutes from 10 Med Countries. 8 Actions.

- ✔ The Goals of the project are:
 - ✔ promoting capacity building on Blue Economy sectors in the Euro-Mediterranean region and knowledge transfer
 - ✔ boosting transferable skills and promoting employability for young professional and researchers
 - ✔ raising awareness on and all challenges and opportunities related to marine and maritime sectors in the region.

Publication “Education for Sustainable Consumption, Behaviour and Lifestyles”

- ✔ Jointly with the **Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production of the United Nations Environment Programme - Mediterranean Action Plan** (SCP/RAC) and the **Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development** (MIO-ECSDE)
- ✔ Practical case studies
- ✔ Five main lifestyles areas such as **food** (nutrition), **housing**, **mobility**, **consumer goods** and **leisure**
- ✔ Aim: to inspire and encourage educational centres, decision makers, stakeholders as well as citizens to promote sustainable actions at all levels and take action in a most impactful aspect regarding environmental preservation



Our belief:

Regional challenges call for regional solutions



**There is no security without development and no
development without security**



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An action-driven organization with a common ambition

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