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Unione delle Università del Mediterraneo
Mediterranean Universities Union
Union des Universités de la Méditerranée
إتحاد الجامعات المتوسطية

Current & SubNetworks projects

Associated universities Institutional partnerships

UNIMED Credits

UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union
is an association of universities, based in Rome.

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Social Media

UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union

UNIMED_Network

UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union

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FOREWORD

Together we connect, innovate, expand, and impact

UNIMED believes that the importance of higher education lies in its ability to cultivate and produce a competent workforce capable of leading transformation across multiple disciplines and sectors. Education provides elements, components, tools, and resources needed to manage crises, find solutions, and address the 5th Industrial Revolution, pandemics, climate change, cyber-attacks, recession, and many other challenges our world may face, through science, scientific research, and skilled and knowledgeable individuals.

The well-equipped workforce that education creates contributes to the development of new industries, innovation, and entrepreneurship. It shapes public opinion and awareness and influences decision-making across many sectors; it helps to shape more effective and equitable policies in healthcare, the environment, industry, agriculture, and social welfare. Higher education results in higher gains, broader inclusivity, and greater diversity.

This all leads us to question how much funding is allocated to develop higher education worldwide. As governments and states pursue different objectives, priorities fluctuate, compete, and clash in favor of budgetary support for national security, industry, the economy, and infrastructure; meanwhile, higher education continues to be overshadowed by these sectors receiving modest and limited funds. While those of us in higher education place great importance on education, it is disheartening that education is not given the value it deserves in national policies and priorities, nor is it adequately reflected in government budgeting.

With our growing and diversified network of expertise, UNIMED is well-positioned to connect all stakeholders, network, and advocate for increased prioritization and funding for education. The increasing number of countries and universities, uniting under the umbrella of UNIMED over the past three decades and pursuing its mission, demonstrates a strong willingness to work together to transcend boundaries and borders, combat setbacks, and enhance connections to the global environment.

This unity has become an essential tool in achieving the internationalization of higher education systems, opening windows for mobility, knowledge exchange, and transfer, developing well-equipped students with global competencies, and promoting economic growth. As we move forward, we must build on this momentum to create the impact we wish to accomplish not only to effectively utilize our financial and human resources but also to multiply them to further expand our scope of work both geographically and culturally, and promote greater cooperation among diverse communities.

Kherieh Rassas
UNIMED President from 2023 to 2026

A common urge to reflect together

The UNIMED network is undoubtedly one of the most important academic association of the Euro-mediterranean region.
Our activities' attendees (Rectors and Presidents of Universities, Vice-Rectors and Vice-Presidents, Representatives of International Relations Offices, as well as administrative staff) show us their strong commitment to build open and pioneering universities, in tune with their environment, brilliant and innovative. Through their efforts and in the light of the steadfastness we all have in carrying out our activities, we wish, first and foremost, to pay heed to our common urge to reflect together and to share orientations and perspectives of our current and future actions.
Today, our universities face many challenges and attempt to overcome them valiantly and selflessly, ceaselessly striving to improve the quality of their educational and research programmes and to adapt them to their ever-changing social and economic environment. Their hard work aims to define the strategic orientations of their governance, engage in societal issues and actively participate in social debates. In recognising their multi-faceted roles, UNIMED intends to serve as an echo of all these major concerns by encouraging quality exchanges and in-depthreflections among the participants in the meeting.
UNIMED's raison d'être is to support the birth of a shared awareness and joint reflections on the concerns and challenges to tackle. Its purpose is to strengthen the active solidarity of all its members so that our mutual actions and common projects can be engraved in our histories and cultures.
Those are some of the grounds for our participation. As the UNIMED founder Prof. Franco Rizzi said: "Mediterranean is our destiny".
We, as UNIMED, are convinced that we have to live this destiny together, hand in hand, thus creating the vision of a Mediterranean region promoting a new Erasmus Mediterranean Generation for peace and prosperity. We cannot forget this because it is the very nature of our association.

Hmaid Ben Aziza
UNIMED Secretary General since 2017

Cooperate in favor of cultural diversity

UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union is the fruit of a brilliant initiative by its founding Secretary General Franco Rizzi (1944-2017) who, together with a handful of university presidents around the Mediterranean, was able in 1991 to create a framework for universities to cooperate in favor of cultural diversity, and to work together to face the challenges of the future. Franco Rizzi and his colleagues recognized that as centers of intellectual curiosity with concentrations of youth preparing to become tomorrow's leaders, universities were ideally positioned to bring together research in all fields of human endeavor to bear on the critical issues of our times.

As our region faces unprecedented challenges today, UNIMED is on the ground, with the accumulated experience of its member universities, to assist in the restructuring of higher education institutions in Mediterranean conflict areas and to propose frameworks for the recognition of the academic credentials of regional refugees.
These timely activities complement a series of others, long-term, that promote student mobility, faculty and administrative exchanges, capacity building, and the reinforcement of research and teaching in social science.

UNIMED has developed over the past quarter century to become a major agent for North-South dialogue, working at levels frequently inaccessible to others. It is called upon today to pursue its growth, to strengthen its commitment and to continue to work for a peaceful Mediterranean, a true cradle of civilizations.

Wail Benjelloun
UNIMED Honorary President since 2019 and former UNIMED President from 2015 to 2018

A growing organisation working passionately

UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union was founded in 1991 by Prof. Franco Rizzi and has been active for more than 30 years.
Those years have been very intense, even difficult, but rich with activities, meetings, debates, projects and initiatives which encourage an uninterrupted dialogue while bad politics has been focusing on building walls.
In recent years, UNIMED has grown gradually but significantly: more than 150 associated universities from 25 countries and more than 25 ongoing projects involving at different levels our member universities. This is a growing team, which gets stronger every year and works passionately and attentively for the success of this network.
In addition to the projects, important collaborations with international organisations have been launched and the transparent relationship with the European Commission has been furtherly strengthened.
The ongoing collaborations with international institutions and organisations, more on this later in this booklet, are grounded on strong basis, concrete goals and well defined action plans and show the role UNIMED can and must play.
UNIMED is a network able to reinforce through its members the institutional collaboration and dialogue between Mediterranean scientific societies, but also the cultural and political dialogue. In this view, universities are certainly the best place to respond to the violence of fanaticisms and radicalisms.
The experience acquired through the ongoing projects made UNIMED a recognised and concrete speaker which we can and must consider with care, and, why not, with curiosity.
Obviously, this is not sufficient. Both shores of the Mediterranean basin are undergoing serious social, economic, political and cultural crisis.
In such difficult times for the future of the European Union and the Mediterranean region, we can and must overcome these difficulties and look in our gazes, our histories and our traditions the values that take us beyond the barbarity of bad politics.

Marcello Scalisi
UNIMED Director since 2008

UNIMED
MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITIES UNION

Network founded in 1991

Who we are – What we do

UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union, founded in October 1991, is an association of Higher Education Institutions focused on academic cooperation throughout the Mediterranean (www.uni-med.net). It counts 157 associated Universities coming from 26 countries.
UNIMED's aim is to develop university research and education in the Euro-Mediterranean area in order to contribute to scientific, cultural, social and economic cooperation.
The Universities in UNIMED's network operate in many different fields, and thus UNIMED operates on many different fronts. The image that best represents our association is that of a *University without Walls*.
UNIMED carries out the following activities in favour of the associated Universities:

- Promoting the international scope of the members;
- Promoting access to the activity of project design and fund raising: information on the calls for proposals and the opportunities provided by international organizations and institutions; finding partners; technical assistance and project design and management;
- Putting in place activities of communication and promotion of projects and scientific and cultural initiatives of the members;
- Promoting the mobility of students, researchers and teachers;
- Providing technical assistance to universities and international relations offices in the management of international projects;
- Organising a Sub-Thematic Network to encourage scientific cooperation in specific sectors;
- Organising conferences, debates, seminars and roundtables at national and international level;
- Promoting research and training projects among the members.

Through the many initiatives carried out over three decades, UNIMED has promoted collaboration between the universities of the Mediterranean, becoming a point of reference of international university cooperation.

UNIMED SubNetworks

UNIMED has also supported the establishment of a second-level network, constituted of SubNetworks focused on specific sectors. The SubNetworks structure allows for an intensive exchange of information among the participating actors of the two Mediterranean shores for the creation of partnerships, collaborations and projects. The aim of the SubNetworks is to strengthen economic and social cohesion, in order to promote, on the one side, cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation and, on the other side, local sustainable development.

UNIMED offices

The UNIMED headquarter is in **Rome (Italy)**. UNIMED has three other branches: one in Palestine, at the **An-Najah National University**, one in Morocco at the **Mohammed V University** and one in Portugal at the **University of Evora**.

CURRENT PROJECTS

HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNANCE

DIRASA - Définition d'un renouvellement de la gouvernance de la recherche en Tunisie
Coordinated by University of Sfax, Tunisia
Countries involved: France, Italy, Tunisia
More at: www.uni-med.net/projects/dirasa
Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE (January 2023 - January 2026)

APPRAIS - governAnce, quality, accountability: a Piloting Reform PRrocess in kurdistAn region of Iraq
Coordinated by UNIMED, Italy
Countries involved: Iraq, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain
More at: www.appraisproject.eu
Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE
(January 2021 - January 2024)

DIGITAQ - Création de Capacités Digitales pour le Pilotage de l'Assurance Qualité dans l'Enseignement Supérieur Algérien
Coordinated by University of Science and Technology of Oran (USTO) Mohamed Boudiaf, Algeria
Countries involved: Algeria, Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal
More at: www.digitaq.eu
Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE
(January 2021 - January 2024)

LEARNING INNOVATION

CliVEx - Climate Virtual ExChange: Enhancing climate awareness in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean Area
Coordinated by UNIMED, Italy
Countries involved: Italy, Lebanon, Palestine, The Netherlands, Tunisia
More at: www.uni-med.net/projects/clivex/
Programme: Erasmus+ VE (July 2023 – June 2026)

EPISODE - Enhancing Palestinian Social and Digital Entrepreneurship
Coordinated by UNIMED, Italy
Countries involved: Belgium, Italy, Palestine
More at: www.episode-project.eu
Programme: Erasmus+ CBVET
(January 2023 - December 2024)

CLIP - Critical visual media literacy and empowerment
Coordinated by UNIMED, Italy
Countries involved: Belgium, Greece, Italy, Spain
More at: www.clipproject.eu
Programme: Erasmus+ CP
(October 2022 - March 2024)

SDG4U - Engaging SDGs for Transformative Education and Enhanced Sustainability in Universities
Coordinated by National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
Countries involved: Greece, Italy, Spain, Ireland
More at: www.uni-med.net/projects/sdg4u/
Programme: Erasmus+ CP (September 2022 – August 2025)

ON-IT - Online Internship in Tourism
Coordinated by Università degli Studi di Macerata, Italy
Countries involved: Croatia, Finland, France, Italy, Spain
More at: www.on-it.info
Programme: Erasmus+ SP
(March 2021 - August 2023)

DCbox - Digital Curator Training & Tool Box
Coordinated by Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy
Countries involved: Cyprus, Italy, Portugal, Serbia, Spain
More at: www.dcbox.eu
Programme: Erasmus+ SP
(December 2021 - May 2024)

RSMF - Remote Student Monitoring Framework for Securing Exams
Coordinated by Politechnika Bialostocka, Poland
Countries involved: Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Poland
More at: www.rsmf-project.eu
Programme: Erasmus+ SP
(November 2021 - October 2023)

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

HGRA - EnHancing manaGement and studies on migRation issues in LibyA
Coordinated by UNIMED, Italy
Countries involved: Italy, Libya, Spain
More at: www.uni-med.net/projects/hgra
Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE (January 2023 – January 2026)

SAFE - foSter cooperAtion For improving access to protEction
Coordinated by Forum Réfugiés, France
Countries involved: Canada, France, Italy
More at: www.uni-med.net/en/projects/safe
Programme: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund - AMIF
(January 2021 - January 2024)

CURRICULA DEVELOPMENT

TeachersMOD - Future Elementary School Teachers Modernization in Kurdistan
Coordinated by University of Pavia, Italy
Countries involved: Iraq, Italy, Portugal, Spain
More at: www.uni-med.net/projects/teachersmod/
Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE (January 2023 - January 2025)

FoSaMed - Enhancing Food Safety in the Mediterranean
Coordinated by University of Evora, Portugal
Countries involved: Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Spain
More at: www.fosamed.eu
Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE
(January 2021 - January 2024)

PACTUM - Projecting Academic Capacities with Tunisian Universities through Master courses
Coordinated by University of Siena, Italy
Countries involved: France, Italy, Spain, Tunisia
More at: www.pactum-project.eu/
Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE
(January 2021 - January 2024)

SAHA - RaiSe libyAn Higher education heAlth sector for the benefit of local society
Coordinated by University of Pavia, Italy
Countries involved: Czech Republic, Italy, Libya, Spain
More at: www.saha.unipv.it
Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE
(November 2020 - November 2023)

MIGRANTS - Master Degree in Migration Studies: Governance, Policies and Cultures
Coordinated by University of Palermo, Italy
Countries involved: Italy, United Kingdom, Spain, Tunisia
More at: www.migrantsproject.eu
Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE
(October 2019 - September 2023)

DOCTORAL EDUCATION

RAQMYAT - Stratégies numériques pour la formation doctorale en sciences humaines et sociales en Tunisie
Coordinated by UNIMED, Italy
Countries involved: Austria, France, Italy, Spain, Tunisia
More at: www.raqmyat.hypotheses.org
Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE
(January 2020 - October 2024)

RESEARCH

ASMeC- Attitudini degli Studenti in un Mediterraneo che Cambia
Coordinated by UNIMED, Italy
Countries involved: Italy, Lebanon Morocco
More at: www.uni-med.net/projects/asmec/
Programme: Fund for research by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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IBTIKAR - PromotIng research and innovaTIon environment in the libyAn higher Education System
Coordinated by UNIMED, Italy
Countries involved: Italy, Libya, Portugal, Turkey
More at: www.ibtikarproject.eu
Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE
(January 2021 - January 2024)

MEDIA AND CULTURE

EUMEPLAT - European media platforms: assessing positive and negative externalities for European culture
Coordinated by IULM - Libera Università di Lingue e Comunicazione, Italy
Countries involved: Belgium, Bulgary, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey
More at: www.eumeplat.eu
Programme: HORIZON 2020 (March 2021 - February 2024)

MOBILITY

COMMO - Cooperation in the Mediterranean through Mobility of students and staff
Coordinated by UNIMED, Italy
Countries involved: Albania, Kosovo, Egypt, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Syria
More at: www.commo.it
Programme: Erasmus+ ICM (September 2022 - July 2025)

ForMed - Sardegna ForMed
Coordinated by UNIMED, Italy
Countries involved: Algeria, Italy, Morocco, Tunisia
More at: www.uni-med.net/projects/formed/
Programme: Fondazione di Sardegna
(September 2015 - August 2024)

Community4Tourism

Coordinated by Diputació de Barcelona, Spain
Countries involved: Albania, Belgium, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy
More at: www.uni-med.net/projects/c4t/
Programme: Interreg Euro-MED
(January 2023 - September 2029)

Green innovation and employability in the Med through the triple helix

Coordinated by UNIMED, Italy
Countries involved: Italy, Jordan and Tunisia
More at: www.uni-med.net/projects/green-innovation-and-employability-in-the-med-through-the-triple-helix/
Contractee: Union for the Mediterranean - UfM
(November 2022 - November 2023)

PREVIOUS KEY PROJECTS
coordinated by UNIMED

ESAGOV - L'Enseignement Supérieur Algérien à l'heure de la Gouvernance Universitaire
Countries involved: Algeria, France, Italy
More at: www.esagovproject.eu
Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE (2019 - 2023)

FRAMES - Fostering Resilience through Accredited Mobility for European Sustainable HE innovation
Countries involved: Ireland, Italy, Spain, The Netherlands
More at: www.frames-project.eu
Programme: Erasmus+ SP (2021 - 2023)

SAGESSE - Amélioration de la Gouvernance dans le système de l'Enseignement Supérieur en Tunisie
Countries involved: France, Italy, Spain, Tunisia
More at: www.sagesseproject.eu
Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE (2017-2021)

DIRE-MED - Dialogue Interculturel, Réseaux et Mobilité en Méditerranée
Countries involved: Algeria, France, Italy, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia
More at: www.diremedproject.eu
Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE (2016-2020)

RESCUE - Refugees Education Support in MENA Countries
Countries involved: Germany, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Spain, Turkey
More at: www.rescuerefugees.eu
Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE (2016-2019)

inHERE - Higher Education supporting Refugees in Europe
Countries involved: Italy, Spain, France, Belgium
More at: www.inhereproject.eu
Programme: Erasmus+ SP (2016-2018)

RESUME - RESeaU Méditerranéen pour l'Employabilité
Countries involved: Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, France, Spain, Tunisia
More at: www.resumeproject.eu
Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE (2015-2018)

OpenMed - Opening-up education in South Mediterranean countries
Countries involved: Egypt, Italy, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Spain, United Kingdom
More at: www.openmedproject.eu
Programme: Erasmus+ CBHE (2015-2018)

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eMEDia, A bottom-up approach for the design and pilot of a joint Master Course in Cross-Media Journalism
Countries involved: Finland, Italy, Spain, Tunisia
More at: https://www.uni-med.net/projects/emedia/
Programme: Tempus (2013-2016)

UNIMED EVENTS

Annual Events

UNIMED General Assembly

The UNIMED General Assembly represents an important yearly event where rectors, presidents and representatives of UNIMED associated universities meet to exchange views and to determine policy for UNIMED, setting the stage for a full and rich year of initiatives, activities and conferences that shape the academic calendar around the Mediterranean.

The Assembly is an opportunity not only for celebration and balance but for reflection to consolidate the work done and discuss the founding values of UNIMED. At the same time, it is an opportunity to meet and to host representatives of international organisations, government officials, students, influential contributors to the cultural and political spheres and representatives of NGOS.

UNIMED WEEK in Brussels

The UNIMED WEEK in Brussels is an annual event providing the Euro-Mediterranean academic community with an opportunity to reflect on the relationships between European Institutions and the Mediterranean region. It is a common chance for an evaluation and revaluation of regional policies.

Concurrently, this event allows to improve the knowledge and use of EU-supported programmes in this field, facilitating the identification of further support needs.

The UNIMED WEEK in Brussels is an occasion to reinforce a common platform for dialogue, raise questions, develop skills and ability to deal with issues of common concern, and identify steps for future cooperation in a constructive and positive atmosphere.

The activities undertaken by the Euro-Mediterranean academic community show the value of encouraging and supporting this work, while also seeking more synergies in the light of the current multifaceted dynamics and challenges. UNIMED is strongly committed to playing a major role in the region, integrating and synergising key initiatives in research, education, and innovation, as well as in supporting the political dialogue.

UNIMED initiatives for Student Engagement

Mediterranean Students Summit
The Mediterranean Student Summit is a new yearly initiative launched by the Erasmus Student Network International – ESN and UNIMED in 2022.

The general objective of the event is to increase mutual awareness and understanding among students from the Mediterranean region and to support the development of competencies that help them to work together on societal challenges and to establish meaningful connections.

Presented during the UNIMED General Assembly in Amman, on June 2022, the first edition of this event has been held on November 2nd and 3rd, 2022 organised at the University of Barcelona premises and supported by different members and partners. The Second Edition will take place from 20th to 22nd September 2023 at Abdelmalek Essaadi University in Morocco.

Start Cup Competition
The "Start Cup Competition - Entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean" is a contest aiming at encouraging student teams from universities on both shores of the Mediterranean to present innovative ideas in the field of entrepreneurship.
The initiative was launched in 2018 in the framework of the Erasmus plus Capacity Building project RESUME (www.resumeproject.eu) and is part of the activities of UNIMED SubNetwork on Employability, whose aim is to strengthen economic and social cohesion by promoting, on the one hand, cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation, and on the other, sustainable local development.
The initiative is jointly organized by UNIMED and the Lebanese University, coordinator of the UNIMED SubNetwork on Employability, with the collaboration of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie - Moyen Orient and the European Training Foundation (ETF).

The fourth edition of the Start Cup Competition has been held at the University of Granada on March 16th, 2023.

UNIMED Award at the Venice International Film Festival
The UNIMED Award, collateral prize of the Venice International Film Festival, results from the collaboration between UNIMED, la Biennale of Venice and the University of International Studies of Rome – UNINT. This annual award, launched in 2017, is assigned by a jury of international students coming from UNIMED associated universities to the competing movie that best reflects t he v alue of cultural diversity, promotes freedom of artistic expression and cultural exchanges.

The award was established in memory of Prof. Franco Rizzi, former Secretary General and founder of UNIMED, for his lifelong and career commitment to improve cooperation between Euro-Mediterranean universities.
Indeed, since its foundation, UNIMED has always been committed to use education as a global force and a mutual understanding vehicle. For that purpose, the UNIMED Award promotes the understanding between peoples of different cultures and religious beliefs, it fights racism and discrimination, revealing the complex causes of violence and demonstrating the successful mastering of conflicts.
The aim of the UNIMED Award is to encourage cultural exchanges among students and highlight the value of cultural diversity in art.

UNIMED PUBLICATIONS

Syrian Higher Education: a beacon of hopes despite the daunting challenges – MUSALIHA (2022)

After ten years of civil war, Syrian society and related higher education institutions are attempting a progressive return to normality. The Syrian crisis raises important education-related questions for the international community as a whole, like the educational background of Syrians currently on the move.
This is witnessed by the growing attention of many international stakeholders, whose objective is to analyze one of the few sectors in the country that is gradually recovering (the proliferation of universities and higher education institutions in recent years has been remarkable) in order to achieve an adequate level of understanding of the local situation and the old and new balances. Considering higher education institutions as useful means to achieve objectives, such as the advancement of peace building strategies, has also been recognized as a valid approach, even by Syrians themselves.
UNIMED together with the Lebanese International University has conducted a study with the general objective to define a clearer state of the art, both in qualitative and quantitative terms, of the current Syrian higher education system, and to develop recommendations for international stakeholders and local institutions, in order to ensure an effective re-establishment of university cooperation capable to carry out peace-building actions in the country. This paper is published by UNIMED with the contribution of the Lebanese International University and supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Lebanon, confessionalism, protests: challenging the ancient regime (2022)

"*Irhal means: Leave! It is one of the most widespread slogans in the language of the so-called Arab uprisings and this simple word represents very well the cry of protesters' demands in the popular uprisings arose across almost all the Arab world, the popular quest for a political and social change against the repressive, ineffective, corrupt policies by authoritarian, neo-patrimonial regimes*". – Patrizia Manduchi, University of Cagliari.

In the framework of the IRHAL project, funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International cooperation, the Italian University of Cagliari and three Lebanese universities members of the UNIMED network (Lebanese University, Lebanese International University, USEK – Holy Spirit of Kaslik) have joined efforts to carry out a research with the aim to analyse the participation of the youth community (and within it, specifically students) in the protest movements that took place in Lebanon in 2019.
In the final report, titled "Lebanon: between aspiration of changes and the ancient regime" and edited by Marco Di Donato and Patrizia Manduchi, thanks to the collaboration with Lebanese academics and a well-structured field research performed in the country, authors have been able to present an unusual point of view with respect to some crucial issues that are affecting nowadays Lebanon, with the aim of providing "food for thought" and contribute to the debate related to the immediate future of the country and the role that youth can eventually play.

The Internationalisation of Higher Education in the Mediterranean, Current and Prospective Trends (2021)

Addressing regional needs of Higher Education Institutions and with the aim of paving the way for a change of scale in the support mechanisms for Higher Education sectors in the Mediterranean, the Union for the Mediterranean launched a study, conducted by UNIMED, aimed at being an effective tool for policymakers and other stakeholders. The study aimed to investigate the internationalisation of higher education, to identify obstacles and challenges, to outline transferable inspiring practices and finally to make a series of recommendations for the Union for the Mediterranean to foster regional integration. The study investigated the internationalisation of higher education in 10 countries – Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia – focusing especially on resources and opportunities available at the national and regional levels.
As a result, this report presents a detailed national context analysis for each of the 10 target countries, a focus on mobility flows in the region, complemented by a wide range of inspiring and scalable practices, as well as an overview of the role played by regional organisations in providing opportunities, creating synergies and making resources available for the higher education institutions in the Mediterranean. Country-specific recommendations were designed in order to address national challenges. At the end of the research and consultative process, a number of common themes for the Euro-Mediterranean region were also identified, in relation to which additional regional recommendations were drafted, with the aim of enhancing the internationalisation of higher education in the region. In this sense, the Union for the Mediterranean has a pivotal role

for the construction of a political and dialogue space in the Mediterranean, while UNIMED, as an independent network, has played the role of the connector between universities, institutional players and regional organizations.

Scenarios for the integration of Virtual Exchange in Higher Education (2021)

The report was created by the FRAMES consortium and it presents scenarios of integration and accreditation of Virtual Exchange (VE) in Higher Education, including challenges and opportunities, and cases illustrating how VE has been implemented within the educational offerings of HEIs.
The report is essential reading for anyone interested in exploring the opportunities VE can offer to innovate mobility in higher education. It is the first major output of the FRAMES project, which aims to foster a harmonised implementation of blended mobility among European Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), making the European Higher Education Area more innovative and resilient and helping universities to move from the COVID-19 emergency to sustainable innovation.
The report begins by delineating the key concepts and definitions associated with Virtual Exchange, providing a clear and succinct introduction for those new to the area. It then presents twelve case studies of integration and accreditation of Virtual Exchange in Higher Education across Europe, aggregated into four categories of VE scenarios, namely VE as a preparatory or follow-up activity to physical mobility (blended mobility); VE as an intertwined component of physical mobility (blended mobility); VE as a stand-alone learning activity; VE as a component of a course (traditional or online).
Moreover, the report shows how VE can offer a more inclusive approach to internationalisation by allowing students who would not take part in a physical mobility programme the opportunity to have an international experience as part of their university studies, and acquire essential transversal skills, such as the ability to work in culturally diverse settings.

UNIMED Occasional Paper: The perceived impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education in the Southern Mediterranean (2021)

The South-Mediterranean region has been strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has aggravated pre-existing socioeconomic challenges such as youth employment, especially of university graduates, and social inequalities. To mitigate the impact of universities closures due to the pandemic, learning in the Southern Mediterranean has gone virtual, moving online where connectivity allows it and using television, radio, and paper-based approaches where internet access is limited. While the transition succeeded throughout the region and was

able to ensure the continuity of education, the capabilities of the universities varied, with some of them seeming more knowledgeable and experienced with online learning compared to others who actually ended up providing distance learning with limited interactivity and students' support.
The Occasional Paper presents the results of a survey launched in May 2020 among Presidents/Rectors, Vice Presidents/Vice Rectors and Offices of International Relations of UNIMED member universities in the Southern Mediterranean, aiming to better understand how universities have been reacting to the pandemic and which innovative solutions have been put in place.
The survey results have been updated and enriched by the members of the UNIMED SubNetwork on eLearning and Open Education, and have been enriched with a selection of the inputs collected by UNIMED through the online platform "Online Resilience – A collection of Online Learning Stories during COVID-19".

Libya Restart – A journey analysis (2020)

Universities are an essential element for a country's reconstruction, for its future, the starting point for civil society, a place for discussing and proposing solutions. This consideration has been the base for the initiative Libya Restart, culminated in a report which was presented during the UNIMED General Assembly in 2019 and which contains the final results of almost two years of work.
UNIMED started the collaboration with Libyan HEIs in 2015 for common participation in projects co-funded in the framework of the Erasmus+ programme. As natural consequence, in 2018 UNIMED decided to launch Libya Restart, an institutional initiative aimed at gaining a deeper understanding of the Libyan Higher Education System, through a research activity performed jointly by UNIMED staff and Libyan University academic and technical staff. Together, we spent more than one year collecting and analysing data and documentation, discussing results, sharing ideas, making mistakes, finding alternative primary sources. Between 2018 and 2019 an assessment work on the Higher Education system in Libya, its main priorities, needs and challenges was conducted through the submission of a quantitative survey and a series of qualitative interviews. In this process, UNIMED has cooperated with the Presidencies and International Relations Offices of 16 Libyan universities.

SUBNETWORKS

SubNetwork Food and Water
Coordinator: MED-Mediterranean Institute for Agriculture, Environment and Development, University of Evora, Portugal
More at: https://www.uni-med.net/subnetworks/food-and-water/

SubNetwork Transports and Logistics
Coordinator: University of Catania, Italy
More at: https://www.uni-med.net/subnetworks/transports-and-logistics/

SubNetwork Employability
Coordinators: UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union, Lebanese University, Lebanon
More at: https://www.uni-med.net/subnetworks/employability/

SubNetwork Mediterranean Tourism
Coordinators: University of Jordan, University of Girona, Spain
More at: https://www.uni-med.net/subnetworks/mediterranean-tourism/

SubNetwork eLearning and Open Education
Coordinator: UNIMED, Mediterranean Universities Union
More at: https://www.uni-med.net/subnetworks/elearning-and-open-education/

SubNetwork BlueMed
Coordinator: UNIMED, Mediterranean Universities Union
More at: https://www.uni-med.net/subnetworks/bluemed/

SubNetwork Sport & Physical Activity
Coordinators: "Foro Italico" University of Rome, Italy & University of Jordan
More at: https://www.uni-med.net/subnetworks/sport-and-physical-activity/

SubNetwork Journalism
Coordinators: Tampere University, Finland & Alexandria University, Egypt
More at: https://www.uni-med.net/subnetworks/journalism/

SubNetwork Migration
Coordinators: Mohammed V University, Morocco & University of Bologna, Italy
More at: https://www.uni-med.net/subnetworks/migration/

SubNetwork Mobility & Intercultural Dialogue
Coordinators: UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union, DIRE-MED partners
More at: https://www.uni-med.net/subnetworks/mobility-and-intercultural-dialogue/

SubNetwork on Safety and Security of Critical Infrastructures
Coordinators: University of Salento, Italy & University of Jordan
More at: https://www.uni-med.net/subnetworks/safety-and-security-of-critical-infrastructures/

SubNetwork Climate and Environmental Change
Coordinators: University of Girona, Spain & Abdelmalek Essaâdi University, Morocco
More at: https://www.uni-med.net/subnetworks/climate-and-environmental-change/

ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES

UNIMED represents **157** members from **26** countries

ALBANIA
European University of Tirana
University of Aleksandër Moisiu Durrës

ALGERIA
University Abderrahmane Mira of Bejaia
University of Algiers 1
University of Algiers 2
University Chadli Benjedid El Tarf
University of Saida
University of Sétif 2

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
International Burch University

CYPRUS
Cyprus University of Technology
Neapolis University Pafos
University of Cyprus

EGYPT
Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport
Matrouh University
University of Alexandria
University of Cairo
University of Sadat City

FINLAND
Tampere University

FRANCE
Aix-Marseille University
University of Montpellier
University of Rouen
University of Strasbourg
University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

GERMANY
University of Cologne

GREECE
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

IRAQ
Duhok Polytechnic University
Sulaimani Polytechnic University
University of Duhok
University of Garmian
University of Zakho

ITALY
Academy of Fine Arts of Rome CEFPAS
Foro Italico University of Rome
Gabriele D'Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara
International Telematic University UNINETTUNO
International University of Language and Media-IULM

International University of Rome-UNINT
Iuav University of Venice
Libera Università Mediterranea
Link Campus University
Marche Polytechnic University
Mercatorum University
Pegaso Telematic University
Polytechnic of Turin
Sapienza University of Rome
Tuscia University
University Cà Foscari
University of Bari
University of Bologna
University of Cagliari
University of Calabria
University of Catania
University for Foreigners of Perugia
University of Macerata
University of Messina
University of Modena and R. Emilia
University of Padova
University of Palermo
University of Pavia
University of Perugia
University of Pisa
University of Salento
University of Sassari
University of Siena
University of Teramo
University of Urbino

JORDAN
Al-Ahliyya Amman University
Amman Arab University
Applied Science Private University
Aqaba University of Technology
Isra University
Middle East University
Princess Sumaya University for Technology
University of Jordan
University of Petra
University of Yarmouk
Zarqa University

KOSOVO
University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani"
University for Business and Technology

LEBANON
Antonine University
Holy Spirit University of Kaslik
International University of Beirut
Lebanese International University
Lebanese University

LIBYA
Al Asmarya Islamic University
Azzaytuna University
Bani Waleed University
Gulf of Sidra University
Islamic University of Al Saied
Mohamed Bin Ali Al Sanussi
Libyan Academy Misurata
Libyan International Medical University
Misurata University
Nalut University
Omar Al-Mukhtar University
Sabratha University
Sebha University
University of Aljufra
University of Benghazi
University of Derna
University of Elmergib
University of Gharyan
University of Sirte
University of Tobruk
University of Tripoli
University of Zawia

MAURITANIA
University of Nouakchott Al Aasriya

MOROCCO
Abdelmalek Essaâdi University

Hassan II Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine
Mohammed V University
University Ibn Tofail of Kenitra

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Middle East College

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Islamic University of Gaza
Palestine Polytechnic University
Palestine Technical University
University of Birzeit
University College of Applied Sciences

PORTUGAL
University of Evora
University of Tras-os-Montes and Alto Douro

QATAR
Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

SPAIN
University of Barcelona
University of Girona
University of Granada
University of Murcia

SYRIA
Academy of Health Sciences
Al-Baath University
Al-Furat University
Al-Hawash Private University
Al-Sham Private University
Arab International University
Arab University of Science and Technology
Idlib University
Manara University
Tishreen University
University of Al Andalus
University of Aleppo
University of Damascus
University of Hama

TUNISIA
University of Carthage
University of Jendouba
University of Kairouan
University of La Manouba
University of Monastir
University of Sfax
University of Sousse
University of Tunis
University of Tunis El Manar
Virtual University of Tunis

TURKEY
Boğaziçi University
Istanbul Aydin University
Manisa Celal Bayar University
OSTIM Technical University
Suleyman Demirel University

YEMEN
Hadhramout University
University of Aden

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie
AUF (Canada)

Al Fanar Media
AFM (UK)

Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation
ALF (Egypt)

Association of Arab Universities
AARU (Jordan)

European Networks of Living Labs
ENoLL (Belgium)

Erasmus Student Network
ESN (Belgium)

European Investment Bank Institute - EIB Institute (Luxembourg)

European Training Foundation
ETF (Italy)

Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme
FMSH (France)

Fondazione di Sardegna
(Italy)

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FAO (Italy)

Fundación Tres Culturas del Mediterráneo
(Spain)

International Training Centre of the ILO
ITCILO

South Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region
PACA (France)

Union for the Mediterranean
UfM (Spain)

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Philantropy Europe Association
Philea, Belgium

International Association of Universities
IAU (France)

Lifelong Learning Platform
LLLP (Belgium)

Migrants dans l'Enseignement Supérieur
MenS (France)

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Marcello Scalisi

President Assistant
Amal Burbar

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Cinzia Generali

Logistics&Project Assistants
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unimed

Unione delle Università del Mediterraneo
Mediterranean Universities Union
Union des Universités de la Méditerranée
إتحاد الجامعات المتوسطية

A brief look into UNIMED

UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union - is a network of Higher Education and Research Institutions, founded in 1991, and active in promoting academic cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region and in Sub-Saharan Africa, in Middle East and in Western Balkans.

It counts **157 Associated Universities** coming from **26 countries** (data updated to June 2023).

Our Vision

We strive to be a **dynamic network** that combines the resources of its members in mutual support, so as to benefit our communities on a local, national, regional, and global scale.

Our Mission

Our mission is to **facilitate international academic and research cooperation** in order to enhance the scientific, cultural, social, and economic development of the region.

Our Values

Our values include – but are not limited to – the following principles:

- **academic freedom**, **institutional autonomy,** and social responsibility of universities on a local and global scales;
- **international cooperation** and **solidarity** based on mutual interests and shared benefits;
- being an **inclusiveness**, open-mindedness, and independence member-led association;
- **mutual understanding** among different cultures for the benefit of shared development;
- **right and equity** in access to higher education and open access to science and research-based knowledge;
- **overcoming barriers** and promoting mobility of students and all university staff;
- promoting **internationalisation of higher education** in order to enhance the quality of education and research for all students and staff, and to make a meaningful contribution to society;
- higher education as an element of **stability and sustainable growth**.

What we do

The Universities in UNIMED's network operate in several fields, and thus UNIMED operates on many different fronts. The image that best represents our association is that of a *University without Walls.*

UNIMED carries out the following activities in favour of the associated Universities:

- Promoting the international scope of the members;
- Promoting access to the activity of project design and fund raising: information on the calls for proposals and the opportunities provided by international organizations and institutions; finding partners; technical assistance and project design and management;
- Putting in place activities of communication and promotion of projects and scientific and cultural initiatives of the members;
- Promoting the mobility of students, researchers and administrative and academic staff;
- Providing technical assistance to universities and international relations offices in the management of international projects;
- Organising a Sub-Thematic Network to encourage scientific cooperation in specific sectors;
- Organising academic conferences, debates, seminars and roundtables at national and international level;
- Promoting research and training projects among the members.

Through the many initiatives carried out over three decades, UNIMED has promoted collaboration between the universities of the Mediterranean, becoming a point of reference of international university cooperation.

Members benefits

- Getting **connected** to over 150 universities from more than 20 countries of the Euro Mediterranean Region and beyond;
- Becoming a partner of **international** research and cooperation **projects**;
- Keeping **updated** with monthly newsletter;
- Having access to **internships**, **exchange** and **short-term programs**;
- Attending **academic conferences**, **thematic meetings**, **seminars and events**;
- Attending **UNIMED events** such as the UNIMED General Assembly and the UNIMED WEEK IN BRUSSELS;
- Promoting **student engagement** through UNIMED initiatives such as Mediterranean Student Summit, Start Cup Competition, UNIMED Award at the Venice International Film Festival or through an internship at the UNIMED headquarters.

UNIMED SubNetworks

UNIMED has also supported the establishment of a second-level network, constituted of SubNetworks focused on specific sectors. The **SubNetworks** structure allows for an intensive exchange of information among the participating actors for the creation of partnerships, collaborations and projects.

UNIMED Booklet

Here you can have a look at our booklet including more information on our ongoing projects, initiatives, events and partnerships.

International Partnerships

UNIMED signed several agreements within international partnerships. The aim is to build a greater mutual cooperation with some institutions through **the achievement of common objectives and activities**. Developing further collaborations in specific sectors, by relying on experts of the field, guarantees a wider range of action and a greater effectiveness on matters which are particularly significant in the Mediterranean region. UNIMED has currently **signed agreements with the institutions** listed **here**.

Members Profile

UNIMED is open to **public and private universities** and **research centers** that wish to pursue the Association's aims and that come from Europe, whether members of the European Union or not, the Middle and Near East and African countries.

How to join the UNIMED Network

- To join UNIMED, the President/Rector of University or Research Institute must **submit a request for membership** to the official email address: **unimed@uni-med.net**
- The University/Research Institute is also required to send a brief description of its history and main fields of training and research as well as its international activities, indicating the name and coordinates of a Focal Point;
- After having assessed the nature and importance in cultural, scientific and technical fields of the institution, UNIMED will submit the request to the Board of Directors for the final deliberation;
- The membership is valid until withdrawal.

Membership Fee

A 3.000 euro yearly fee, to be paid by March, 31st of each year, is foreseen in order to be a member of the network. The amount was determined by the shareholders at the General Assembly held in Algiers in 2003 and can be changed only by the Assembly of the members.

UNIMED Associated Universities

ALBANIA
- European University of Tirana
- University of Aleksandër Moisiu Durrës

ALGERIA
- University Abderrahmane Mira of Bejaia
- University of Algiers 1
- University of Algiers 2
- University Chadli Benjedid El Tarf
- University of Saida
- University of Sétif 2

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
- International Burch University

CYPRUS
- Cyprus University of Technology
- Neapolis University Pafos
- University of Cyprus

EGYPT
- Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport
- Matrouh University
- University of Alexandria
- University of Cairo
- University of Sadat City

FINLAND
- Tampere University

FRANCE
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- University of Montpellier
- University of Rouen
- University of Strasbourg
- University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

GERMANY
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GREECE
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IRAQ
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- Sulaimani Polytechnic University
- University of Duhok
- University of Garmian
- University of Zakho

ITALY
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- CEFPAS
- Foro Italico University of Rome
- Gabriele D'Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara
- International Telematic University UNINETTUNO
- International University of Language and Media - IULM
- International University of Rome - UNINT
- Iuav University of Venice
- Libera Università Mediterranea
- Link Campus University
- Marche Polytechnic University
- Mercatorum University
- Pegaso Telematic University
- Polytechnic of Turin
- Sapienza University of Rome
- Tuscia University
- University Cà Foscari
- University of Bari
- University of Bologna
- University of Cagliari
- University of Calabria
- University of Catania
- University for Foreigners of Perugia
- University of Macerata
- University of Messina
- University of Modena and Reggio Emilia
- University of Padova
- University of Palermo
- University of Pavia
- University of Perugia
- University of Pisa
- University of Salento
- University of Sassari
- University of Siena
- University of Teramo
- University of Urbino

JORDAN
- Al-Ahliyya Amman University
- Amman Arab University
- Applied Science Private University
- Aqaba University of Technology
- Isra University
- Middle East University
- Princess Sumaya University for Technology
- University of Jordan
- University of Petra
- University of Yarmouk
- Zarqa University

KOSOVO
- University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani"
- University for Business and Technology

LEBANON
- Antonine University
- Holy Spirit University of Kaslik
- International University of Beirut
- Lebanese International University
- Lebanese University

LIBYA
- Al Asmarya Islamic University
- Azzaytuna University
- Bani Waleed University
- Gulf of Sidra University
- Islamic University of Al Saied Mohamed Bin Ali Al Sanussi
- Libyan Academy Misurata
- Libyan International Medical University
- Misurata University
- Nalut University
- Omar Al-Mukhtar University
- Sabratha University
- Sebha University
- University of Aljufra
- University of Benghazi
- University of Derna
- University of Elmergib
- University of Gharyan
- University of Sirte
- University of Tobruk
- University of Tripoli
- University of Zawia

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MOROCCO
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- Hassan II Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine
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- University Ibn Tofail of Kenitra

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- An-Najah National University
- Arab American University
- Islamic University of Gaza
- Palestine Polytechnic University
- Palestine Technical University
- University of Birzeit
- University College of Applied Sciences

PORTUGAL
- University of Evora
- University of Tras-os-Montes and Alto Douro

QATAR
- Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

SPAIN
- University of Barcelona
- University of Girona
- University of Granada
- University of Murcia

SYRIA
- Academy of Health Sciences
- Al-Baath University
- Al-Furat University
- Al-Hawash Private University
- Al-Sham Private University
- Arab International University
- Arab University of Science and Technology
- Idlib University
- Manara University
- Tishreen University
- University of Al Andalus
- University of Aleppo
- University of Damascus
- University of Hama

TUNISIA
- University of Carthage
- University of Jendouba
- University of Kairouan
- University of La Manouba
- University of Monastir
- University of Sfax
- University of Sousse
- University of Tunis
- University of Tunis El Manar
- Virtual University of Tunis

TURKEY
- Boğaziçi University
- Istanbul Aydin University
- Manisa Celal Bayar University
- OSTIM Technical University
- Suleyman Demirel University

YEMEN
- Hadhramout University
- University of Aden

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