

Euromed Chronology

January

EU-Palestine

13-Al-Issawiya: The heads of EU missions to Jerusalem and Ramallah meet residents and civil society organizations in East Jerusalem, a neighbourhood which has been the scene of clashes and incursions since May 2019. The diplomats also discuss the educational situations of the Palestinian students from this area. "Israel has an obligation to protect, respect and fulfil the rights of the child, by ensuring that schools are inviolable safe spaces for children." In addition, the diplomats address the Jerusalem issue and reaffirm that the EU favours a solution which fulfils the legitimate aspirations of both parties and that the status of Jerusalem as future capital of both Israel and Palestine must be resolved. www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/palestine-european-union-heads-mission-visit-al-issawiya-east-jerusalem

Police

16-Brussels: Around 80 representatives and experts from partner countries across the Mediterranean join the closing conference of the Euromed Police project in the Academy Palace. The project team presents the lessons learned during its implementation, which comprises a total of 35 activities, 11 of which take place in the southern Mediterranean and which mobilize 859 police officers. <https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/euromed-police-project-and-closing-conference-lay-foundation-future-euro>

Youth employment

16/17-Paris: Around 30 participants of the Youth Employment in the Mediter-

anean (YEM) project meet at the UNESCO headquarters for a capacity-building and planning session on skills anticipation to share their knowledge and experience within this field. The aim is to fine tune the skills anticipation methodology for the beneficiary countries of the YEM project: Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. <https://en.unesco.org/themes/skills-work-and-life/yem>

Environment

17-La Marsa: The municipality of La Marsa, in Tunisia, and the MEGARA Network launch the local kick-off of the "Mediterranean Integrated Alliance on Waste for Cities and Citizens" (MED-InA) project, part of the ENI CBCMed programme. The city of La Marsa becomes the pilot site for the testing and implementation of Zero Waste strategies and methodologies. The project involves start-ups of the circular economy sector that develop innovative solutions to local waste management while the project also encourages citizens to act more responsibly with regards to waste. www.enicbcmed.eu/road-towards-zero-waste-cities-med-ina-project-tunisia

EU-Libya

19-Berlin: President of the European Commission (EC) Ursula von der Leyen and High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) Josep Borrell attend the Berlin conference on Libya alongside influential international partners to discuss the critical state of the Libyan crisis. The participants agree on 55 points for a swift follow up, and the EU reaffirms its support to the UN-led mediation efforts, which it considers as the only sustainable solution to the Libyan

conflict. The EU also reveals that it has launched talks with international and regional powers to broker a ceasefire while it commits to supporting Libya's territorial integrity and unity.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_20_82

Humanitarian aid

20-Brussels: The EC adopts its annual humanitarian budget for 2020. The EU deploys €900 million to more than 80 countries, of which €345 million goes to countries of the Middle East, with a special focus on addressing the conflict in Syria and the refugees flow into Syria's neighbourhood, as well as the critical humanitarian situation in Yemen. In this regard, Janez Lenarčič, European Commissioner for Crisis Management stresses that "Europe has a responsibility to show solidarity and support for those in need. Our assistance depends on full humanitarian access so aid organizations can do their lifesaving job".

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_67

EU-Jordan

20-Brussels: During his visit to the European institutions, King Abdullah II meets with the main EU leaders. President von der Leyen discusses at length security and stability issues in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) as well as EU-Jordan bilateral relations. She stresses the Hashemite Kingdom's role in promoting stability in MENA and offers a €500million package to support the economic process in Jordan.

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/king-abdullah-ii-visit-brussels-consolidates-long-standing-eu-jordan

EU-Morocco

21-Rabat: The Moroccan Minister of Energy and the European, French and Austrian Ambassadors to Morocco chair the launch seminar of the European Union-Morocco institutional twinning. This initiative is expected to support the implementation of the National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development, aimed strengthening the sustainable management of natural resources and promoting economic activities in line with environmental protection standards.

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/national-charter-environment-and-sustainable-development-launch

Renewable energy

22-Brussels: The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the EU agree on a new €50 million programme of financial guarantees aimed at scaling up investment in renewable energy in the EU's southern neighbourhood, particularly in Jordan, Tunisia and Lebanon under the EU's External Investment Plan (EIP). The programme is expected to generate investment of up to €500million in the field of renewables and to provide some additional 340 MW of renewable energy capacity as well as lead to a cut in annual greenhouse gas emissions to 530 kilotons of CO₂.

www.ebrd.com/news/2020/ebrd-and-eu-agree-50-million-financial-guarantee-to-boost-renewable-energy-in-eu-neighbourhood.html

ARLEM

22/23-Barcelona: Hosted by the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the 11th plenary session of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) adopts the Plan of Action for its next term of office, during which it will focus on sustainable economic development, climate action in the Mediterranean and women's empowerment. The ARLEM adopts two draft reports titled "Euro-Mediterranean integration: The role of regional and local authorities" and "Blue Economy for local and regional authorities in the Mediterranean."

https://cor.europa.eu/es/events/Pages/11th_ARLEM_Plenary_session.aspx

Economic integration

27/28-Geneva: Nasser Kamel, Secretary General of the UfM, meets bilaterally with heads of international organizations. He provides an overview of the UfM's trade-related action to the World Trade Organization (WTO), notably the deepening of South-South economic integration and the strengthening of the Euro-Mediterranean trade partnerships. With the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), he discusses the implementation of the 2030 Agenda across the Mediterranean, especially focusing on women's entrepreneurship and technical and vocational training. Finally, with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), he talks about the collaboration of the UfM in line with the Water Convention.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/promoting-trade-wto-unctad-unitar-unece/>

Migration

29-Rabat: The European Union in Morocco and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) launch two guides developed in the framework of the Regional Programme for Development and Protection in North Africa (RDPP). Entitled "Media coverage of migration based on international law and factual data," the two guides are directed at journalists and facilitators in order to strengthen the resilience and protection of migrant communities and their families. They are developed in collaboration with the Minister Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Residing Abroad, responsible for Moroccans Residing Abroad (MDCMRE) and the Higher Institute of Information and Communication (ISIC).

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/migration-launch-journalists-guide-and-facilitators-guide-morocco

Environment challenges

29-Tunis: The EU-funded Med Dialogue for Rights and Equality holds a public debate on the environmental challenges in the Mediterranean, gathering 30 participants from 10 Mediterranean countries to raise their awareness on the environmental challenges that the Mediterranean is facing.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/med-dialogue-rights-and-equality-project-raises-southern-countries>

Youth Entrepreneurship

31-Cagliari: MEDSt@rts project is officially presented by project partners from Italy, Greece, Tunisia, Lebanon and Palestine. The project aims to help unemployed youth and businesses in the shadow economy through the creation of a common transnational programme as an alternative system of access to credit inspired by ethical finance and solidarity principles involving public and private actors. It intends to enable access to microfinance for entrepreneurial developments in sectors such as digitalization, sustainable tourism, agrifood, eco-design and craftsmanship.

www.enicbmed.eu/medstrt-project-promote-credit-mediterranean-basin-kicking-january-31-930-cagliari-presence-italy/

February*Middle East Peace Process*

4-Brussels: Following the US proposals for peace between Israel and Palestine, advanced on 28 January, EU HR/VP Josep Borrell Fontelles recalls the EU's commitment to a lasting resolution to the conflict between both parties. He reiterates the EU's preference for a two-state solution and calls for direct negotiations between Israel and Palestine on the unresolved Jerusalem status issue, borders, security and the refugee question.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/73960/node/73960_en

Social and solidarity economy

4-Beirut: The MoreThanAJob project, funded by the EU under the ENI CBC Med programme, holds a stakeholders meeting and is attended by a number of Lebanese organizations from the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) sector. The event aims to present success stories with regards to inclusion and the challenges identified in this area by Lebanese SSE organizations.

www.enicbmed.eu/projects/more-thanajob

Youth radicalization prevention

10-Barcelona: The European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) hosts the launch event of the project CONNEKT,

an EU-funded project part of the Horizon 2020 programme. The discussion focuses on the gaps in research into violent extremism in the MENA, the Balkans and Europe. It exposes the aim of the project: mapping the factors that lead to radicalization among youth to improve prevention.

<https://launching.h2020connekt.eu/>

Entrepreneurship empowerment

10-Luxembourg:

The SANAD Fund for MSME (SANAD) announces that its investments have facilitated the 200,000th such sub-loan, which was disbursed by Microfund for Women (MfW). The loan, which stands at \$1,000, is provided to a Jordanian entrepreneur to finance the sewing business she runs in Jordan.

www.sanad.lu/index.php

Business development

13/14/15-Rabat: Moroccan diaspora members and entrepreneurs, mentors, industry experts, investors and leaders of innovation ecosystems in Europe and MENA meet at the StartUp Africa Summit, an event organized by StartUp Maroc and co-funded by the EU, to discuss the internationalization of African business and industry. It also explores several pathways of investment to strengthen African start-up firms.

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/startup-africa-summit-2020-diaspora-and-start-ups-shaping-africa

Health

17-London: The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) announces its support for the development of high-quality hospitals in Egypt and Morocco. The EBRD supports the Islamic finance structure backed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) put in place with a provision of \$20 million, deepening further its action in Europe's southern neighbourhood.

www.ebrd.com/news/2020/ebrd-backs-programme-to-develop-highquality-hospitals-in-egypt-and-morocco.html

EU-Libya

17-Brussels: EU Foreign Affairs Ministers, gathered at the Foreign Affairs Council, agree to launch a new operation in the Mediterranean Sea to support the imple-

mentation of the arms embargo imposed on Libya by the UN Security Council. Following Operation Sophia, ending in March 2020, the new operation will uphold some of its tasks, namely that of fighting organized crime and training the Libyan Coast Guard and Navy. With regards to its scope, as opposed to Operation Sophia which covered the whole Libyan coast, HR/VP Josep Borrell urges surveillance be concentrated on the eastern part of the shore.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/libya/74842/libya-eu-ministers-agree-launch-new-mediterranean-sea-operation-implement-arms-embargo_en

Fight against cybercrime

17/18-Algiers: The working group in charge of developing a manual on cybercrime and electronic evidence for Algerian magistrates holds its second meeting in the framework of the EU-funded project Cybersouth. The aim of the meeting is to assess current work in view of the facilitation of the integration of a basic and advanced module on cybercrime and electronic evidence into the initial course for student magistrates.

<http://www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-cybersouth-project-working-group-meetings-algeria-and-jordan>

Fight against corruption

18/19-Barcelona: A regional seminar on "Enhancing integrity for sustainable investment" is held in the framework of the EU-OECD Programme on Promoting Investment in the Mediterranean. The seminar provides a multistakeholder platform to discuss the importance of fighting corruption in investment transactions, to advance international instruments on anti-corruption to favour policymakers' action for integrity and include cooperation mechanisms with the private sector.

<https://www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/regional-seminar-address-fight-against-corruption-investment-transactions>

Intercultural integration

18/19-Marrakech: In the framework of the programme "Ensuring sustainable democratic governance and human rights in the Southern Mediterranean (South Pro-

gramme III)," jointly funded by the Council of Europe and the EU, an Intercultural Integration Academy takes place in Marrakech. It gathers a variety of stakeholders from Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan and Palestine, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), cities and ministries.

www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/intercultural-integration-academy-eu-promotes-intercultural-integration

Maritime safety

25/26-Haifa: In the framework of the EU-funded SAFEMED IV project, 15 members of the Israeli Maritime Administration attend a training course on THETIS-Med, delivered by the European Maritime Safety Agency's (EMSA) staff. The aim is to familiarize the participants with the new system's functionalities and features in order to ensure a smooth transition.

<http://emsa.europa.eu/safemed-iv-project/360-safemed-iv-component-2/3815-safemed-iv-training-on-thetis-med-fo-israel.html>

Cultural heritage

26-Amman: The EBRD, the Jordanian Ministry for Tourism and Antiquities and the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA) sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on their intention to jointly work on a development plan to boost the cultural heritage resources of the Petra and South Shuna regions. The MoU also foresees collaboration on the development of a Christian pilgrimage trail across Jordan.

www.ebrd.com/news/2020/ebrd-and-jordan-to-develop-the-countrys-cultural-heritage-.html

Civil protection

25/27-Tunis: Two sub-regional workshops are held by PPRD South 3 (with Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia). The first provides information on how to activate the European Mechanism for civil protection and use the aid received. The second workshop deals with disaster risk reduction, especially related to river floods caused by heavy rains.

<https://www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-sub-regional-workshops-held-european-mechanism-civil-protection>

Transports

27-Algiers: In the framework of the EU-funded project EUMedRail, the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA), together with the Algerian authorities, holds a regional seminar on how to manage risks through the development of a Safety Management System (SMS). The SMS manages the various elements – the mechanisms in place to comply with international and national regulations and standards, sector and business level requirements, the outcomes of risk assessment and good practice – needed to be able to run a safe and successful organization. www.era.europa.eu/content/eumedrail-seminar-safety-management-system-algerian-railways_en

EU-African Union

27/29-Addis Ababa: The European Union – African Union (AU) 10th Commission-to-Commission meeting gathers EC President Ursula von der Leyen, HR/VP Josep Borrell and 19 European Commissioners to kick-start the consultation process ahead of the EU-AU meeting planned for October 2020. On this occasion, President von der Leyen consults EU's African partner about the Africa Strategy which will be presented in March 2020 and takes the opportunity to discuss common challenges facing the EU and Africa. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_317

Education and sustainable development

29-Rabat: Erasmus Global Partnerships organizes the MENA Forum 2020 on "Fostering Global Citizenship Education to move beyond the Sustainable Development Goals," gathering 60 young entrepreneurs and leaders from the MENA region and Europe. It comprises capacity-building training sessions on Global Citizenship Education and Entrepreneurships and an opportunity to exchange knowledge, build inter-disciplinary and cross-border partnerships and prepare policy recommendations in various areas. www.erasmuspartnerships.org/erasmus-global-partnerships-mena-forum-2020/

March*5+5 Dialogue*

1/2-Marrakech: For the first time since 2010, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Secretaries of State from the member countries of the 5+5 Dialogue meet to discuss exclusively the issue of migration in the western Mediterranean. The Ministers agree to adopt a positive approach linking migration to development. Representatives from the EU, the AU, the UfM, the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the IOM and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) attend as observers.

<https://medthink5plus5.org/en/2020/03/10/8th-ministerial-conference-of-the-55-dialogue-on-migration-and-development/>

Gender equality

3-Barcelona: Ahead of the celebrations of International Women's Day, the UfM launches the regional intergovernmental follow-up mechanism on gender balance. In line with the 2017 UfM Ministerial Declaration on strengthening the role of women in society, this mechanism will set up concrete indicators to evaluate the progress made towards women's full participation in the region. <https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/union-mediterranean-ufm-launches-new-regional-mechanism-monitor-gender>

Women's access to health

5-Barcelona: The UfM and the World Health Organization (WHO) sign a MoU to improve women's access to health in the Euro-Mediterranean region. It seeks to establish a cooperation framework to promote and facilitate the engagement of UfM Member States in health-related activities, also addressing violence against women. <https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-who-join-forces-improve-womens-access-to-health/>

Gender equality

5-Tanger: The EU-funded programme Moucharaka Mouwatina organizes a capitalization workshop on the EU's support for Moroccan civil society into

promoting gender equality, on the occasion of International Women's Day. <https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/gender-equality-capitalisation-workshop-eu-support-moroccan-civil-society>

Police

5-Nablus: From the 29 February to the 5 March, the European Union Police and Rule of Law Mission (EUPOL COPPS) delivers a training course to Palestinian Civilian Police (PCP) officers on handling complex operations, while keeping people safe and protecting human rights in the event of riots, demonstrations and sporting fixtures. It adopts a multidisciplinary approach integrating different areas of police operations. <https://eupolcoppes.eu/single-news/39/en>

Equal opportunities:

9-Ouargla: The Support Programme to training-job and qualification adequacy (AFEQ), co-funded by the EU and the Algerian government, organizes a conference at the University of Ouargla on the issue of equal opportunity. The aim is to address issues of gender analysis and the inclusion of the gender dimension in processes of occupational integration of young graduate women. www.programme-afeq.org/afeq/

EU-Africa

9-Brussels: The EC and the EU's HR/VP release a Joint Communication for a comprehensive strategy with Africa, ahead of the 2020 EU-AU Summit. It seeks to intensify cooperation through partnerships in key areas: green transition, digital transformation, sustainable growth and jobs, peace and governance and migration and mobility. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_373

Women, gender and the media

10-Tunis: The Council of Europe, in partnership with the National Syndicate of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT), organizes a study visit for media professionals from Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia in the framework of the EU-funded South Programme II. The main aim is to strengthen journalists' capacities to produce ethical journalistic content and media treatment against stereotypes and

existing discourses in the media and to best respond to challenges related to their respective contexts.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funds-study-visit-journalists-mena-region-tunis-lively-debate-womens>

Economic and social development

13-Tunis: The EU-funded project Innov'1 – EU4Innovation and Elife project, implemented by the “Fondation Tunisie pour le Développement” sign a grant agreement to contribute to economic and social development by associating innovation and entrepreneurship to enhance the employability and supervision of young entrepreneurs in the region.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-contributes-tunisian-social-and-economic-development>

Palestine refugees

24-Jerusalem: The EU provides €82 million to UNRWA to continue providing access to education for 532,000 Palestine refugee children and primary health care for more than 3.5 million patients. With this new financial input, UNRWA also plans to provide assistance to over 250,000 vulnerable Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, Gaza, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan in the particular context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip/76455/node/76455_en

EU-Morocco

27-Brussels: The EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Oliver Varhelyi talks to the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Living Abroad Nasser Bourita to announce the EU's immediate reallocation of €150 million to support the Special Fund for the Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic, initiated by the King of Morocco Mohammed VI. The EU also foresees a possible additional redirection of the €300 million allocated to Morocco towards the response to the pandemic.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/covid-19-eu-mobilisation-support-moroccos-efforts>

EU-Tunisia

28-Brussels: The EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Oliver Varhelyi informs the Tunisian Foreign Minister Nouredine Erray regarding the EU's decision to grant €250 million to help fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic consequences.

In addition, the EU foresees reinforcing the “Essaha Aziza” programme by tripling the allocated grants from €20 million for 13 governorates to €60 million for the whole of the Tunisian territory.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/tunisia-eu-supports-national-efforts-fight-against-covid-19>

Protection of vulnerable populations

30-Gaziantep: The European Endowment for Democracy (EED) grantee Bousla for Training and Innovation trains Syrian refugees and displaced people in Turkey and north-west Syria in the framework of the awareness campaign launched to combat the spread of COVID-19 amongst these vulnerable populations.

www.democracyendowment.eu/en/news/1523-preventing-the-spread-of-covid-19-among-syrian-refugees-and-idps.html

Libyan conflict

31-Brussels: The Council of the EU adopts the decision to launch the Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI to help enforce the UN arms embargo on Libya. With a mandate lasting until 31 March 2021, the operation will use aerial, satellite and maritime assets. Its secondary aim is to monitor and gather information on illicit exports of hydrocarbons from Libya, participate in the training of the Libyan Coast Guard and Navy and to contribute to the fight against migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/03/31/eu-launches-operation-irini-to-enforce-libya-arms-embargo/

Access to water:

31-Sabha: The EU and the IOM supply the Libyan General Water and Waste Water Company (GWWC) with waste water pumps under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. The initiative responds to the very critical water situa-

tion in Libya where health and environmental conditions have been affected by an incomplete wastewater system.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/libya/76850/ensuring-access-clean-water-promote-health-communities-sabha_en

Syrian refugees

31-Brussels: The EU provides further support for refugees from Syria and vulnerable persons in Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon through a new package of almost €240 million, raising the total assistance via the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis to more than €2 billion. It assists host countries in facing public health challenges and other challenges in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news_corner/news/eu-approves-close-%E2%82%AC240-million-strengthen-resilience-neighbouring-countries-hosting_en

April

Women's entrepreneurship

1-Luxemburg: The SANAD entrepreneurship Academy and the Womenpreneur-Initiative release a documentary about their joint trip to Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia between November and December 2019 to meet and interview female tech entrepreneurs and digital talents in the framework of the Womenpreneur Tour. This initiative aims to promote female entrepreneurship in the fields of technology, digitalization and innovation in MENA.

www.euromedwomen.foundation/pg/en/resources/view/9123/womenpreneur-tour-film-2020?fbclid=IwAR0OU2qCfMWixRh4TZvFQnZ_NoyuHlovuywSDYeN013KE3sLjU6bPH_6Hnw

Civil protection

7-Cairo: The EU allocates €100,000 to enable volunteers and teams of the Egyptian Red Crescent to provide assistance to 12,000 people affected by the floods caused by the severe weather conditions that have hit Egypt since March 2020. The assistance package includes meals, first aid, mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and hygiene kits

in addition to cash assistance to over 880 families who have lost livestock and sources of income.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/egypt/77159/eu-funds-relief-flood-victims-egypt-amid-coronavirus-outbreak_en

Research and innovation

8-Barcelona: The UfM member states meet to discuss actions to tackle the crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic through research and innovation and to foster cooperation for evidence-based healthcare decision-making. Countries from both shores of the Mediterranean present their ongoing research on ways to address the global pandemic through calls for proposals, clinical trials and training sessions.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/cooperation-research-innovation-covid-19/>

Global response to COVID-19

8-Brussels: The EC and the EU HR/VP design plans to support the EU's partner countries in facing the global COVID-19 pandemic. €2.1 billion are secured for the EU's SN to address the immediate health issues and, related humanitarian issues with strong focus on partner countries' health, water and sanitation systems as well as their research capacities.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/press-corner/detail/en/IP_20_604

Microplastics observation

8-Rome: The EU-funded "COastal Management and MONitoring Network for tackling marine litter in Mediterranean Sea" (COMMON) project operating in Italy, Lebanon and Tunisia, observes 116 marine species to identify to observe the presence of plastics and microplastics in their gastrointestinal tract and evaluate the related ecotoxicological effects of the ingestion of such substances.

www.enicbcmed.eu/common-fishing-under-observation

EU-Morocco

8-Luxembourg: The European Investment Bank (EIB) decides, as an exceptional measure, to speed up the disbursement of loans in support of small and medium-sized enterprises in Morocco. It also aims to help the country

improve its health facilities in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic through the purchase of medical equipment.

www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-097-covid-19-la-bei-se-mobilise-pour-aider-le-maroc

Water and sanitation

8-Barcelona: The UfM and the Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau (IME) organize the first online brainstorming meeting on water and sanitation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some 25 partners and experts from Algeria, France, Lebanon, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia exchange their points of view on possible recommendations on how to move forward with the water emergency situation.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-ime-meeting-water-sanitation-covid/>

Energy efficiency

9-Tripoli: The EU-funded BEEP (BIM for Energy Efficiency in the Public Sector) project holds its first meeting in the Lebanese city of Tripoli, which will serve as the project case study. The project team meets with engineers and administrative officials to present the main lines of the project, which aims to enhance energy efficiency in Mediterranean public buildings.

www.enicbcmed.eu/beep-first-meeting-held-lebanon-inspect-and-analyse-municipality-tripoli-and-rashid-karami-municipal

Education

10-Piran: The Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) Management Board meets online, with the participation of the UfM Secretariat, to discuss the educational challenges and opportunities in the context of the global pandemic, putting forward some proposals on the digital transformation of teaching and training. The Presidents of EMUNI and the Euromed University of Fes (UEMF), both UfM supported-projects, agree in this occasion to strengthen the collaboration between the two institutions.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/emuni-innovative-actions-covid/>

Education

15-Alexandria: The Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) organizes the first virtual ex-

change on Intercultural Citizenship Education, bringing together educators from the formal and non-formal education sectors. This virtual platform aims to encourage discussion amongst educators from various Euro-Mediterranean countries on how the COVID-19 pandemic affects their work and intercultural exchanges.

<https://www.annalindhoundation.org/news/first-intercultural-citizenship-education-virtual-exchange-15-april-2020>

Online businesses

16/18-Amman: The EU Delegation to Jordan organizes, in partnership with Google for Startups, the Startups Weekend Jordan, an online event aimed at gathering local developers, designers, marketers, nurses, doctors, students, scientists, teachers and anyone with innovative ideas on how to tackle the business challenges posed by the global pandemic.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/jordan/77562/global-online-startup-weekend-fight-covid19-apply-now_en

Response to COVID-19

22-London: In response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy of Morocco, the EBRD loans €145 million to the Bank of Africa-BMCE Group. €100 million are dedicated to lending to corporations and to small and medium-sized enterprises whose activity has been negatively impacted by the pandemic. The remaining €45 million is appointed for a multi-currency trade finance aimed to stimulate import and export transactions.

<https://www.ebrd.com/news/2020/ebrd-launches-first-key-investment-under-coronavirus-response-in-morocco.html>

Intercultural dialogue

23-Online: The ALF and the EU delegation to the UN host their first Virtual Dialogue. It focuses on Youth, Peace and Security and is organized in cooperation with the European Parliament's Young Political Leaders (YPL). Young leaders from seven countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region express their will to participate in conflict resolution and to be involved in the bottom-up decision-

making of the UN Security Council's youth peace and security agenda.
<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/anna-lindh-foundation-holds-first-virtual-dialogue-youth-peace-and>

Violence prevention

24-Strasbourg: Tunisia is formally invited by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CoE) to accede to the CoE Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, also known as the Istanbul Convention. To help Tunisia in its efforts to implement reforms to fight violence against women, the CoE reinforces the capacities of Tunisians involved in the prevention of such violence through the Programme on Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP).
<https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/south-programme/-/tunisia-invited-to-accede-to-the-istanbul-convention>

Sustainable investments

28-Online: The ANIMA Investment Network, in collaboration with the UfM and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) hosts the opening session of a series of workshops dedicated to developing investments that contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Mediterranean. Through the initiative "Impact Invest," it aims to involve private investors in achieving sustainable development.
https://ufmsecretariat.org/tapping-sustainable-development-potential-investment/?fbclid=IwAR2rcPhEkmKwMMLibysbHCDVBSig_bryeYSQGyZW8-ZoZHOEb9-1mEbWwM0

MSMEs

28-Luxembourg: The Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) of the SANAD, funded by the EU, launches a COVID-19 Crisis Response Programme for MENA. Its aim is to provide consultancy to financial institutions and investees on risks related to COVID-19, in order to refine their response and help micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).
<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-sanad-technical-assistance-facility-launches-covid-19-response>

Migration management

30-Tripoli: The European Union Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM), Libya and the IOM sign a MoU on supporting Libyan authorities in their fight against criminal networks involved in human trafficking and terrorism activities. It is set to cooperate closely in the implementation of the "Support to Integrated Border and Migration Management in Libya" project, funded by the European Union Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF).
https://eeas.europa.eu/csdp-missions-operations/eubam-libya/78272/civilian-csdp-eubam-libya-and-international-organization-migration-deepen-cooperation_en

Water management

30-Online: The MENAWARA (Non-Conventional Water Re-use in Mediterranean countries) project funded by the EU organizes the online meeting of its Steering Committee to plan the project's new activities under the COVID-19 constraints. The project aims to enhance access to water and the treatment of wastewater to be reused in irrigation systems in Italy, Jordan, Palestine, Spain and Tunisia.
<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/menawara-steering-committee-met-online>

May

Security

4-Rome: European Union Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI starts its activities at sea with a French naval vessel and a maritime patrol aircraft provided by Luxembourg. The operation operates under the mandate in compliance with the Berlin Conference on Libya, implementing the arms embargo in an impartial and conflict-sensitive way.
www.operationirini.eu/operation-eunavformed-irini-operation-sets-sail/

Financial assistance

5-Brussels: EU ambassadors endorse an EC proposal for the provision of €3 billion in assistance to ten countries of the EU's neighbourhood to help cope with the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The package allocates €200 million to Jordan and €600 million to Tunisia.

www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/05/05/covid-19-council-greenlights-3-billion-assistance-package-to-support-neighbouring-countries/

Migration

5-Brussels: The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) initiates a new three-year phase of the Migration EU eXpertise (MIEUX), funded by the EU. It is a facility aimed at providing partners – including southern neighbourhood countries – with capacity building and technical assistance through projects.
<https://euneighbours.eu/en/east-south/stay-informed/news/fourth-phase-migration-eu-expertise-initiative-launched>

Resilience

5-Tripoli: In the framework of the "North of Africa Window" of the EU Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), the EU provides €18 million for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project in Libya. The project aims to foster resilience and to improve the living conditions of residents of municipalities affected by conflict and by the COVID-19 pandemic-related challenges.
https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/libya/78581/european-union-increases-funds-eur-18-million-undp-resilience-programme-libya-targeting-20-new_en

Innovation and employability

5/19-Barcelona: With the support of the GIZ, the UfM launches its new initiative for universities, research centres and policymakers. It aims to help them share best practices and boost career opportunities in the Mediterranean region, thereby promoting the nexus between research, innovation and employability in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
<https://ufmsecretariat.org/closing-gap-between-universities-business/>

Water emergency

6-Online: The UfM and the Mediterranean Water Institute (IME) hold a series of virtual meeting addressing the effects of COVID-19 on water and sanitation. Experts from Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Spain, Tunisia and Tur-

key share best practices, lessons learned, and the emergency plans that water and utility operators elaborate in their countries in order to face the crisis. <https://ufmsecretariat.org/mediterranean-countries-share-water-emergency-and-recovery-plans-to-tackle-the-aftermath-of-covid-19/>

Public debate

6-Tunis: The EU Delegation to Tunisia partners with the association Jamaity and the radio channel Shems FM for the launch of a new radio programme, “Point Jamaity” focused on Tunisian civil society. The programme aims to reflect on and give visibility to collective, individual and social movements’ dynamics by giving the floor to civil society actors.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-tunisia-gives-floor-civil-society>

Innovation

7-Online: The NEXT SOCIETY, an EU-funded project, launches the first regional Innovation Scoreboard, elaborated in collaboration with FEMISE. With 78 indicators, it gives information on the innovation performance of countries of the MENA region and aims to mobilize and promote their innovation ecosystems.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/next-society-launches-first-innovation-scoreboard-suitable-southern>

Green business

8-Region: The Green Entrepreneurship Programme, part of the SwitchMed initiative, starts in six countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region, namely Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. Through the commitment of six local partners in each of these countries, the programme aims to implement activities and provide tools to support entrepreneurs involved in the green and circular economy.

<https://switchmed.eu/news/switchmed-green-entrepreneurship-programme-kicks-off-in-6-countries/>

Intercultural dialogue

9-Online: The EU launches the “Meet the Neighbours of the Neighbours dur-

ing COVID-19 time” initiative, on the occasion of Europe Day. In the context of lockdown, it aims to provide youth from Europe, Africa and the Mediterranean region free access to films from Europe, the Western Balkans, Africa and the Mediterranean neighbourhood. It thus promotes and encourages intercultural dialogue amongst youth.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/meet-neighbours-neighbours-during-covid-19-time-eu-online-film-festival>

Entrepreneurship

11/12-Online: The Green Impact MED (GIMED) project, which supports entrepreneurs in their efforts to access financing and markets in Egypt, Italy, Lebanon, Palestine, Spain and Tunisia, holds its second coordination meeting to discuss the implementation and planning of activities. Particular attention is drawn to mitigation strategies in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-gimed-partners-meet-online-share-experiences-and-plan-future>

Humanitarian aid

12-Brussels: The European Commission publishes guidance on how to provide COVID-19-related aid to Syria. It seeks to provide technical advice about how to comply with EU sanctions while sending humanitarian aid to Syria to facilitate the work of humanitarian workers, whether from Member States or non-state actors such as NGOs or banks, among others.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_831

Business financing

12-Cairo: The EIB and Banque du Caire (BDC) decide to provide \$100 million to help finance SMEs from the manufacturing and services sectors in Egypt. Targeting 100 companies, it aims to improve their competitiveness and thus to sustain 4,000 jobs. It brings total EIB support for the Egyptian private sector to €2.7 billion since 2015.

www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-114-eib-and-bdc-provide-usd100-million-to-finance-smes-in-egypt?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=Social&

[utm_campaign=na&utm_content=na&utm_cid=Social_twitter_na_2020-05-12-01_en_na_Egypt_SMEs](https://ufmsecretariat.org/mediterranean-countries-share-water-emergency-and-recovery-plans-to-tackle-the-aftermath-of-covid-19/)

Training

12-Online: The Anna Lindh Foundation provides training for trainers from the formal and non-formal education sectors. It aims to strengthen their skills for virtual exchanges in general. Participants come from the Euro-Mediterranean region: Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Portugal and Tunisia.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/anna-lindh-foundation-trains-trainers-virtual-exchanges>

Sustainable development

13/14-Online: The UfM participates in the UN Environment Programme’s (UNEP) 21st Meeting of the Members of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development to tackle the issue of pollution in the Mediterranean. Among the topics covered, the Water and Environment Support (WES), funded by the EU and part of the UfM Water Agenda, was put at the forefront as a success story of UN and UfM joint efforts towards waste reduction solutions.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/strengthening-collaboration-tackle-pollution-mediterranean/>

Pandemic response

14/27-Online: The UfM starts a cycle of three live debates aimed at sharing ideas and collaboration path to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each debate addresses a different field of activity, namely youth, economy and maritime transport.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/union-mediterranean-launches-cycle-live-debates-response-covid-19>

Private sector development

18-Tunis: The Delegation of the EU to Libya announces €3 million for the EU for the Private Sector in Libya (EU4PSL) project. This complements the €7 million already allocated to the project. The project, implemented by Expertise France

in collaboration with the Libyan authorities, aims to boost economic opportunities in Libya.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/libya-additional-eu-3-million-allocated-eu-funded-eu4psl-project>

Protection at work

19-Tunis: The EU delivers personal protective equipment to the Tunisian internal security forces thanks to the funding of the Counter Terrorism in the MENA (CT-MENA) project, which aims to build the capacities of government security agencies across the MENA region. The delivery occurs in the framework of the Team Europe initiative in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/tunisia-eu-delivers-personal-protective-equipment-internal-security-forces>

Water and sanitation

19-Online: The UfM, jointly with the IME meets with experts on the occasion of the 3rd Brainstorming Meeting to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on drinking water and sanitation. The meeting stressed the essential character of the work of water and wastewater workers, manufacturers and suppliers as well as the need to protect them and infrastructures in the context of the pandemic.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/analysing-impacts-covid-19-provision-drinking-water-sanitation/>

EU-Morocco

20-Rabat: The EU and Morocco sign a new financing convention to the value of €100 million to support Morocco's health system in its efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. It also aims to ensure the system's resilience to future health crises that may occur.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/morocco/79091/1%E2%80%99ue-et-le-maroc-signent-une-nouvelle-convention-de-financement-dans-le-secteur-de-la-sant%C3%A9-et_fr

Economic assistance

20-Brussels: The Council of the EU adopts a €3 billion macro-financial assistance package to be allocated

to neighbouring countries. It allocates €200 million to Jordan and €600 million to Tunisia, in order to help these countries cover their immediate needs in the face of the economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/05/20/covid-19-council-adopts-3-billion-assistance-package-to-support-neighbouring-partners/

Online training

27-Online: EUNAVFOR MED launches an online training platform providing a COVID-19 information course. It aims to train the Libyan Coast Guard, as a priority, and possibly other Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions to establish and implement behavioural changes to help combat the spread of COVID-19.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-security-and-defence-operation-eunavfor-med-response-covid-19>

Social and Solidarity Economy

27-Online: Partners from MedTOWN and MoreThanAJob projects and experts in social inclusion from the Joint Technical Secretariat of the ENI CBC Med Programme meet to lay the foundations for future collaboration. They explore the potential for common fieldwork in Palestine and Jordan and other possible synergies for dialogue and policy dialogue to promote the social economy and fight poverty.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-cross-border-projects-look-develop-synergies-social-inclusion-through>

EU-Syria

28-Brussels: The Council of the EU extends the EU's restrictive measures introduced in 2011 against the Syrian regime for an additional year, until 1 June 2021, as the repression against civilians continues in Syria. 273 persons are thus targeted by an assets freeze and a travel ban, while 70 entities are targeted by an assets freeze.

www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/05/28/syria-sanctions-against-the-regime-extended-by-one-year/

June

Climate awareness

1-Guelmim Oued Noun: In the framework of the "10 days for the Mediterranean," supported by the EU-funded regional programme Med Dialogue For Rights and Equality, an advocacy campaign is launched and takes place until 30 June simultaneously in 10 countries of the southern shore of the Mediterranean. It comprises 29 local awareness-raising, training and advocacy actions to encourage sustainable practices and environmental protection measures.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/10-days-mediterranean-eu-funded-campaign-raise-awareness-environment>

Recovery assistance

2-Brussels: The European Commission proposes a budget of €118.2 billion for external action and an additional €15.5 billion to support its partners in recovery efforts in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) is allocated €96.4 billion of which, €10.5 billion comes from the new European Recovery Instrument ("Next Generation EU").

Refugees

3-Brussels: The European Commission proposes to increase its support to refugees and host communities in relation to the crisis in Syria. Out of a top-up of €585 million in total, it decides to provide €100 million to Jordan and Lebanon, which host the largest numbers of refugees per capita in the world, and €485 million to support refugees in Turkey.

Entrepreneurship

8-Istanbul: The new EU-funded project "Enhancement of Entrepreneurship Capacities for Sustainable Socio-Economic Integration" (ENHANCER) is launched in 11 provinces of Turkey. The project, implemented by the ICMPD, aims to create opportunities for Syrian entrepreneurs living in Turkey. It targets participants aged 18-44, with a 30% women quota. www.icmpd.org/our-work/projects/enhancement-of-entrepreneurship-capacities-for-sustainable-socio-economic-integration-enhancer-project

Research and innovation

8-Online: The UfM Regional Platform on Research and Innovation holds its 25th meeting, co-chaired by the European Commission and Jordan. It kick-starts the creation of the Experts' Technical Working Group entrusted with the task of making proposals for the implementation of regional strategic priorities.

Intercultural dialogue

9-Online: The ALF launches an Intercultural Dialogue Resource Centre accessible online. This platform aims to foster accessibility to undertaking research, good practices, learning activities, expertise and events on intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean, with information on more than 100 curated academic publications and the biographies and contact information for 100 experts.
www.annalindhfoundation.org/news/launch-intercultural-dialogue-resource-centre

Water

9/10-Online: The UfM holds a consultation meeting to address the impact of the pandemic on the water sector, with 100 participants from 21 different countries and representing more than 30 regional expert organizations. It highlights the fact that, although relief is needed, a focus on meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should remain a priority.
<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-water-agenda-responses-covid-19/>

Refugees and vulnerable groups

10-Brussels: The EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis mobilizes an additional €55 million for refugees from Syria and vulnerable persons in Jordan and Lebanon with the aim to fight the pandemic and to provide effective support in areas of health, water and sanitation.
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/press-corner/detail/en/IP_20_1013

Energy

10-Online: MEDREG holds its 29th General Assembly, providing participants with the regulators' methodology in the context of the pandemic. It informs participants regarding the re-

scheduling of MEDREG's deliverables foreseen in the 2020 Action Plan.
www.medreg-regulators.org/

Migration governance

15/18-Online: The "Mediterranean City-to-City Migration" (MC2CM) project, funded by the EU, holds a peer-learning event with over 50 participants in attendance from over 22 local administrations of the Euro-Mediterranean region. It gives way to a reflection on ways to rebalance migration-related narratives at local level through communication practices.
<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-mediterranean-city-city-migration-project-event-points-need>

Youth

16-Online: Young Mediterranean Voices and the European Parliament's Young Political Leaders discuss with the EU HR/VP, the Vice-President of the European Parliament, the Director-General of the external policies of the Union, providing an important platform for constructive dialogue in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
<https://youngmedvoices.org/media/events/eu-high-level-virtual-discussion-youth-eu-high-representativevice-president-josep>

Health

16-Tripoli: The EU provides, through the EUTF, €1 million to the International Medical Corps (IMC) for a new programme to be implemented in Libya. Its aim is to equip and train staff in two primary healthcare centres and one hospital in Tripoli to enable the provision normal healthcare continue in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
<https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/libya/>

Sustainable urban development

18-Online: Senior officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the UfM member countries meet to endorse a new regional initiative "UPFI-ERI: Urban Projects Finance Initiative – Economic Resilience Initiative," aimed at supporting sustainable urban development projects in southern and eastern Mediterranean countries.
<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-member-states-endorse-urban-development/>

Smart cities

19-Online: The EU-funded project "Mediterranean SMEs working together to make cities smarter" (SME4SMART-CITIES) holds its second steering committee meeting with partners from Israel, Italy, Jordan, Palestine and Spain. They discuss the upcoming activities of the project and the support needed by innovative MSMEs in terms of training and capacity building.
www.enicbcmmed.eu/2nd-steering-committee-meeting-sme4smartcities-has-been-celebrated-participation-all-partners

EU-Syria

22-Brussels: The fourth Brussels conference on Syria on "Supporting the Future of Syria in the Region", hosted by the EU and co-chaired by the UN, starts in a virtual format and will go on until 30 June. It serves as the main pledging event for Syria and its neighbours and as a unique dialogue platform with civil society organizations operating in the region.
https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/syria/81300/syria-crisis-brussels-iv-conference-supporting-future-syria-and-region-kicks-today_en

Private business

22-London: The EBRD provides a financing package of \$200 million to the National Bank of Egypt (NBE). Its aim is to trigger lending to local Egyptian companies whose activities are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
www.ebrd.com/news/2020/ebrd-and-nbe-boost-private-businesses-in-egypt.html

EU-Libya

24-Janzour: Through the EU-funded programme "Recovery, Stability and socio-economic development in Libya" (Baladiyati), UNICEF Libya is set to deliver essential medicines to 24 Libyan municipalities, thus helping 600,000 people to have access to basic health services.
<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-provides-essential-medicines-three-municipalities-libya>

Refugees

24-Brussels: Budget Committee Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) approve increasing the financial support

to Syrian refugees and hosting communities in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. They agree to provide a total of €585 million, of which €485 million is to ensure the continuation of humanitarian support to refugees in Turkey and €100 million targets host communities in Jordan and Lebanon.

www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200622IPR81718/meps-approve-EU585-million-to-support-refugees-from-syria

Democracy

25-Online: The EED presents its 2019 Annual Report in which Lebanese and Tunisian partners participated. IT outlines the challenges faced by democracy activists and civil society at large in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in the EU and beyond.

www.democracyendowment.eu/en/news/1654-2019-eed-annual-report.html

Climate

25-Tel Aviv: The first ever Climate Policy Forum: Innovation and Green Technologies for the European Green Deal is held in Israel, with over 1,000 participants. It aims to lay the groundwork for EU-Israel cooperation for climate action through a hybrid physical and virtual event.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/israel/81725/first-ever-eu-climate-policy-forum-israel-discusses-innovation-and-green-technologies-european_en

Social economy

26-Online: The UfM holds a workshop on the social economy and post-pandemic recovery. It provides participants and social economy stakeholders with a platform and opportunity to push the social economy further on the agenda and to incorporate it into programmes aimed at strengthening the private sector in the MENA region.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-promotes-social-economy-as-agent-post-pandemic-recovery/>

EU-Syria

30-Brussels: At the fourth Brussels conference on Syria, the EU mobilizes an international pledge of €6.9 billion in

financial assistance to Syria and countries hosting Syrian refugees. 71% of the total amount is pledged by the EU through the European Commission and the Member States.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/press-corner/detail/en/ip_20_1211

Security and Defence

30-Brussels: The Council of the EU extends the mandates of the following missions: EUBAM Libya, EUBAM Rafah and EUPOL COPPS. The mandates are extended until 30 June 2021 to enable the mission to implement the activities put on hold due to the COVID-19-related context.

Green finance

30-London: The EU provides €61.3 million to support the EBRD programmes aimed at helping businesses to develop in a more sustainable way by cutting their carbon emissions, investing in energy efficiency and, introducing green technologies. The EBRD is set to finance two of Green Energy Financing Facility (GEFF) programmes in Egypt and Morocco, with in this framework.

<https://www.ebrd.com/news/2020/ebrd-and-eu-join-efforts-to-boost-green-finance.html>

July

Marine litter

1-Monastir: The EU-funded COMMON project launches the “BEACH CLEAN” campaign to address the pressing issue of marine litter on Mediterranean beaches. In the framework of this initiative, the ten golden rules will be posted on Italian, Lebanese and Tunisian beaches to promote sustainable and clean bathing establishments. The campaign is set to last until 30 September.

www.enicbcmec.eu/eu-funded-common-project-launches-beach-clean-campaign-reduce-marine-litter-mediterranean-beaches

Sustainable development

2-Online: The ALF holds a high-level policy debate, co-organized with Friends of Europe. It discusses the role of EU-MENA multilateral action and intercultural

dialogue with regards to aligning post-COVID-19 recovery with the 2030 Agenda in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

www.annalindhoundation.org/news/high-level-policy-insight-virtual-debate-co-organised-alf-and-friends-europe-aligning-covid-19

Training

6-Online: The EBRD sponsors the launch of a training platform to support the Tunisian finance sector institutions in their MSME financing activities. The platform also aims to share best practices in this field and provide training for technical certifications.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/tunisia-european-bank-reconstruction-and-development-launch-training>

EU-Libya

6-Online: In the framework of the Berlin process, the Economic Working Group of the International Follow-up Committee on Libya meets to reiterate its support to the National Oil Corporation (NOC) as it resumes its work on behalf of the Libyan people after lifting “force majeure” nationwide. By allowing the NOC to resume work, it aims to establish the basis of understanding among all Libyans on equitable distribution of oil and gas revenues.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/libya/82285/economic-working-group-libya-reiterates-full-support-noc-lifting-force-majeure-nationwide_en

Youth

7-Online: Delegates of the ALF’s “Young Mediterranean Voices” and the European Parliament’s “Young Political Leaders” participate in a discussion with the European Commission’s Director-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations and the Vice-Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee. The discussion focuses on youth perspectives on building trust in the media and the role of intercultural dialogue in this.

www.annalindhoundation.org/news/eu-high-level-virtual-discussion-youth-perspectives-building-trust-media-through-intercultural

Dialogue and media

8-Online: The ALF organizes the online platform entitled “Beyond painting pictures and cultivating stereotypes: Media narratives and foreign reporting for dialogue in the Euromed region.” It provides a platform for facilitated debate between journalists, academics and civil society to reflect on how media reporting and mutual perceptions have changed as a result of the current pandemic.
www.annalindhfoundation.org/news/virtual-intercultural-trends-and-media-platform-8th-july-2020

Barcelona Process

8-Online: The Generalitat de Catalunya, in collaboration with the IEMed, launches a series of conferences covering central issues related to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Process. The first webinar focuses on how digitization and innovation can help MSMEs grow.
www.iemed.org/events/digitizing-the-small-and-medium-sized-mediterranean-company-dialogues-of-the-mediterranean-25/?set_language=en

Tourism

9-London: The EBRD launches, together with Jordan’s Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the Sector Skills Council for Hospitality and Tourism, a programme aimed at providing extra training to 20,000 employees of the hospitality and tourism sector in Jordan, a sector which accounts for 13% of the country’s GDP and has been hit hard by the pandemic.
www.ebrd.com/news/2020/ebrd-helps-jordans-tourism-sector-recover.html

EU-North Africa

10-Online: The European Commission for Home Affairs and the European Commission for Neighbourhood and Enlargement meet the Interior Ministers of France, Italy, Malta, Spain, Algeria, Libya, Mauritania and Morocco at a conference hosted by Italy. The EU aims to engage actively with its partner countries in the fight against migrant smuggling on this occasion.
https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news_corner/news/commissioner-v%C3%A1rhelyi-participate

*ministerial-conference-eu-member-states-and_en**Multilateral finance*

14-London: The EBRD shareholders approve Algeria’s request for membership, thus allowing the country to be a recipient of EBRD finance and advisory services. Algeria thus moves to the next stage in the membership process and has to meet pre-membership requirements prior to becoming a full member.
www.ebrd.com/news/2020/ebrd-approves-membership-of-algeria.html

Climate

14-Online: On the occasion of the UfM Mediterranean Climate Week, UfM member states meet with scientific experts and other relevant climate actors, such as civil society representatives, to discuss the UfM Climate Action Plan for 2021-2025 which insists on the reinforcement of the Sciences – Society – Policy nexus and climate finance as priorities.
<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-mediterranean-climate-week-2020/>

Risk management

15-Online: PPRD 3 South holds a webinar on “the roles and tasks of the national civil protection authority and the disaster risk management authority in the wider framework of the national responses to the COVID19 crisis”. France, Italy and Spain share experiences and outline the role of their respective civil protection systems in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.
<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-pprd-south-3-adapts-risk-management-covid-19-response>

Agrifood sector

16-Online: The UfM and the foundation “Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area” (PRIMA) organize a debate on the agrifood sector and means to promote the rebound of the Mediterranean region in the face of exacerbated challenges related to the pandemic.
<https://ufmsecretariat.org/agrifood-survey-in-the-light-of-covid/>

Sea waste management

18-Tyre: The COMMON project launches its activities in Lebanon. Through this

EU-funded project, the aim is to build a collaboration network between Italy, Tunisia and Lebanon to support the correct management of marine litter, a major concern in the Mediterranean region with regards to the preservation of coastal areas.

www.enicbcmed.eu/common-project-presented-lebanon?fbclid=IwAR21OwysLI1-lto4i5DZNqo624J4XLvh56cO0DaLPo5qmjRjKA4XXE_YrD8

Women and youth

20-Tunis: The project EBSOMED organizes a working session on “Gender Mainstreaming and Women and Youth Empowerment” in the framework of the Employers’ Thematic Committees developed by BUSINESSMED. It highlights the need to include a gender perspective across different sectors in the target countries.

http://ebsomed.eu/en/content/actualit_s/working-meeting-committee-gender-mainstreaming-and-women-and-youth-empowerment

Water

23-Online: The UfM Task Forces on Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus and Water-Employment-Migration (WEM) meet to jointly identify priorities and investigate potential synergies to find solutions to water-related socioeconomic challenges in the region.
<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-water-agenda-solutions-water-challenges/>

Cyber security

25/26-Tunis: 120 young developers participate in the Hackathon Fin’Hack, organized by the start-up company Hack-up with the support of the EU-funded Innov’I – EU4Innovation. They work for one day on proposing solutions to problems related to finance technologies such as artificial intelligence to the service of insurances companies and the banks and automation of bank processes among others.
<https://innovi.tn/>

Cultural sector

27-Online: The EMEA organizes a meeting in the framework of the “CREative Entrepreneurs ACTing FOR the future MEDiterranean” (CREACT4MED) project aiming to map and analyse the eco-

systems of culture and creative sectors in the south of the Mediterranean as the project seeks to enhance the role of culture as a vector for employment and resilience in the region.

<https://euromed-economists.org>

Cyber resilience

29-Online: CyberSouth organizes a regional workshop addressing the topic of legislation and international cooperation in cybercrime and electronic evidence. The aim is to present international standards and assess whether regional legislations are in line with them. It also gives way to the presentation of two studies on cybercrime legislation and international cooperation capacities.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/cybersouth-regional-workshop-legislation-and-international-cooperation>

Marine litter management

29-Sousse: The University of Sousse, in partnership with the COMMON project, inaugurates a new molecular biochemistry laboratory. The laboratory aims to study plastics and microplastics and to study the effect of plastic on marine biodiversity.

www.enicbcmed.eu/common-project-new-lab-analyse-marine-litter-impact

Renewable energy

30-Oujda: Morocco creates Training Institutes for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (IFMEREE), with the financial support of the EU. The three institutes located in Oujda, Ouarzazate and Tangiers offer training courses related to eco-friendly jobs, as the renewable energy market is growing steadily in Morocco.

www.majalat.org/news/morocco-creation-three-training-institutes-renewable-energy-and-energy-efficiency-professions

Gender equality

30-Barcelona: The UfM Member States endorse an intergovernmental set of 20 indicators to set up a region wide mechanism to monitor progress on gender equality on four priority areas: “women’s access to leadership and decision-making”; “women’s economic participation”; “combating violence against

women and girls”; and “combating gender-based stereotypes”.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/indicators-gender-equality/>

August

Gender mainstreaming

3-Ramallah: EUPOL COPPS managers receive training on institutionalizing gender mainstreaming. The Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) provides this training in order to give EUPOL COPPS staff tools to identify and address gender inequalities in everyday work. It fuels initiative such as the setting up of a hotline for reporting gender-based violence and domestic violence with the Palestinian police force.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/palestine-eu-police-mission-trained-gender-mainstreaming>

Economic resilience

4-Barcelona: The UfM launches the Grant Scheme for employment promotion – a regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Its aim is to support projects which enable people to find jobs and improve their working and living conditions and is targeted at non-profit organizations of the Mediterranean that works actively to provide people with employment opportunities.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/grant-scheme-2020/>

EU-Libya

4-Tunis: The EU mobilises an additional €20 million in financial assistance to help Libyan authorities face the surge of COVID-19. The EU aims to step up assistance and establish better national coordination mechanisms for the detection and surveillance of infection clusters and improve public awareness of the virus and effective preventive measures.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/libya/83748/european-union-mobilizes-%E2%82%AC20-million-covid-19-response-libya_en

EU-Lebanon

5-Beirut: The port of Beirut suffers a powerful explosion leaving a number of casualties. The EU Civil Protection

Mechanism is immediately activated to support the Lebanese authorities in facing the immediate challenges related to the explosion. The EU also provides support through its Copernicus Satellite mapping system.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/press-corner/detail/en/statement_20_1452

Tourism

8-Aqaba: In the framework of the project “Cultural Routes for Sustainable Social and Economic Development in the Mediterranean” (CROSSDEV), journalists and members of the press visit the tourist site of Aqaba, one of the sites where the project is implemented. The aim is give visibility to less known destinations.

www.enicbcmed.eu/crossdev-educational-tour-press-aqaba-jordan?fbclid=IwAR1f5MjFqJz4JNxsSuCenRP5FFzGP_8xUUPgOWbEwmHDb8I1MZjhcWolg4

Higher education

11-Brussels: The European Commission announces a list of capacity-building projects selected in the framework of the Erasmus+ programme for higher education. Jordan wins eight projects in this field, with a total funding of approximately €4 million and involving cooperation with 12 European countries and Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon and Palestine.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-supports-higher-education-jordan-through-erasmus>

Emergency assistance

12-Beirut: To provide much needed emergency assistance after the Beirut port explosion, INTERPOL deploys a specialized team. The international team includes Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) experts deployed on-site, as many people remain missing.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/interpol-deploys-response-team-site-beirut-explosion>

Tourism

18-Umm Qais: The Jordanian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities participates in the opening of the Umm Qais Archaeology Museum. On this occasion, she meets local partners of the CROSSDEV project which aims to promote tourism

in Jordan and link the various tourism products in the region.

www.enicbcmed.eu/minister-tourism-visited-umm-qais-and-was-briefed-about-crossdev-project

Counter terrorism

18-Brussels: The Special Tribunal for Lebanon, founded in 2007 by the UN Security Council (UNSC) for the trial of those involved in the terrorist bombings that killed Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and 21 other people in 2005, pronounces its judgement on the Ayyash et al. case. The EU reiterates its support for the work of the Tribunal.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon/84189/lebanon-statement-spokesperson-judgment-special-tribunal-lebanon-ayyash-et-al-case_en

Culture

23-Amman: The 1st Amman International Film Festival is launched with the support of the EU. 19 European co-productions are presented every night of the festival as part of the selection, with projections in three drive-in theatres until 3 September.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/jordan/84355/eu-jordan-supports-1st-edition-amman-international-film-festival_en

Trade

24-Brussels: The European Commission adopts a package of proposals aimed at increasing trade in the Pan-Euro-Mediterranean (PEM). The package seeks to strengthen the EU's preferential trade agreements with 20 PEM countries, simplifying rules of origin, in order to ensure economic resilience in the context of the pandemic outbreak.

https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news_corner/news/rules-origin-eu-enhance-preferential-trade-pan-euro-mediterranean-pem-countries_en

Digital education

25-Brussels: The Erasmus+ programme launches two new calls with funding of €100 million for each. The first one focuses on digital education readiness and the need to enhance digital and distance learning to maintain quality education and training. The second one

calls for partnerships for creativity to boost innovation.

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/news/coronavirus-response-extraordinary-erasmus-calls-support-digital-education-readiness_and_en

Water infrastructure

27-Tunis: The Acting Head of the EBRD, the officer in charge of water infrastructures for the EBRD and the Tunisian Secretary of State for water resources meet to discuss the project aimed at rehabilitating deep drilling in Tunisian oases, for which the EBRD funds technical assistance.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/tunisia-european-bank-reconstruction-and-development-moni-tors-projects>

EU-Lebanon

31-Brussels: An EU air bridge flight delivers 12 tonnes of essential humanitarian supplies and medical equipment to Lebanon. It aims to enable Lebanon to provide access for medical services to the most vulnerable, and includes a mobile hospital and face masks.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1537

Trade and investment

31-Online: The EU-funded initiative Majalat organizes a capacity-building webinar focused on EU policies and mechanisms related to trade and investment. It draws particular attention to the role held by civil society in these sectors of action.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-majalat-webinar-focus-eu-policies-and-mechanisms-regarding-trade>

Emergency assistance

31-Luxembourg: In order to help Morocco in its fight against COVID-19, the EIB releases a €100 million in emergency funding as the first part of a €200 million package. The funding directly helps the country increase its health facilities and hospital capacity in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak.

<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-231-la-bei-debloque-en-urgence-100-millions-d-euros-pour-soutenir-le-maroc-face-au-covid-19>

September

Infrastructure

2-London: The EBRD provides a financing package of €300 million to ensure the delivery of vital infrastructure services in Morocco, targeting state-owned utility and transport companies such as Office National de l'Électricité et de l'Eau Potable (ONEE Water), Société Nationale des Autoroutes du Maroc (ADM; Morocco's national authority for the management of motorways) and the Office National des Aéroports (ONDA). <https://www.ebrd.com/news/2020/ebrd-supports-vital-infrastructure-services-in-morocco-during-pandemic.html>

EU-Palestine

2-Jerusalem: The EU provides an additional €9 million to pay the July pensions and salaries of 37,500 Palestinian civil servants in the West Bank, as well as those of health and education workers and the pensions of civil servants in the West Bank. This contribution is in the framework of the Team Europe approach. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip/84660/new-eu-contribution-%E2%82%AC9-million-payment-july-salaries-and-pensions-palestinian-civil-servants_en

Women and employment

3-Baata: The PADSEL-NOA programme closes a series of training sessions on handmade pottery, leatherwork and basketry. These training sessions involve women and unemployed youth from the regions of Baata, Saida and Ain Defla and aim to foster more income-generating activities for these vulnerable communities of Algeria.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/algeria/84893/cl%C3%B4ture-de-trois-sessions-de-formation-m%C3%A9tiers-du-programme-padssel-noa_fr

Euro-Mediterranean policy

9-Online: In the framework of the "Mediterranean +25 Dialogues", the IEMed and the Generalitat de Catalunya organize a conference on the impact of COVID-19 in southern Mediterranean countries. The aim is to look at how far the EU has gone to mitigate the effects of the pandemic

in its southern neighbourhood and how it aims to channel this in the future.

https://mailchi.mp/iemed/euomed-dia-legs_mediterrania_25anys_en

Water management

9-Online: The project “Mediterranean Integrated System for Water Supply” (MEDISS) holds its Partners Steering Committee, under the coordination of the Palestinian Wastewater Engineers Group (PWEG). It follows output delivery and the state of play of the activities of the projects.

<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/water-management-mediss-partners-steering-committee-web-meeting>

Civil protection

10-Online: PPRD South 3 organizes a technical webinar on contingency planning in the field of civil protection for the national focal points and other stakeholders involved in the project. The Italian Civil Protection Directorate gives presentation on Italian disasters to provide examples the good practices and share lessons learned concerning civil protection.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-pprd-south-organises-meeting-contingency-planning>

Socioeconomic recovery

11-London: The EU and EBRD team up to ensure recovery in the context of COVID-19 in the EU’s neighbourhood. The EU provides a guarantee of €100 million to support EBRD investments of around €300 million. The EU guarantee also aims to support the EBRD’s efforts to develop green, low-carbon, climate-resilient economies in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon and the West Bank and Gaza.

<https://www.ebrd.com/news/2020/ebrd-and-eu-to-further-support-corona-virus-response-and-recovery-in-eu-neighbourhood.html>

Tourism

11-Online: The project “GAmification for Memorable tourist experienceS” (MED GAIMS) organizes a webinar on “Gamification in Tourism: Opportunities in Lebanon”. The webinar discusses opportunities in Lebanon for five funded

grants and potential Hackathon and Creative Labs to be created in the framework of the project.

<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/med-gaims-grant-opportunities-gamify-tourism-lebanon-september-11>

Security and defence

14-Rome: The Acting Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Libya visits the headquarters of the EU operation EUNAVFORMED. She exchanges views with the operation commander on the current situation in Libya and highlights that the staff are implementing the mission with the objective of complying with the UN arms embargo on Libya.

<https://www.operationirini.eu/un-acting-envoy-libya-stephanie-williams-visited-irini-headquarters/>

Foresight

15-Online: In the framework of the EU-funded project el-Hiwar II, the College of Europe Development Office organizes a foresight exercise on the anticipation of future crises and opportunities in Euro-Arab relations. It analyses the impact of COVID-19 but also that of other game changers and trends.

<https://www.coleurope.eu/news/eu-funded-project-el-hiwar-ii-2020-foresight-exercise>

Civil protection

16-Online: PPRD South 3 organizes a meeting with 30 participants including representatives of the project’s partner countries, Norway, Italian regions and Romania. Italy gives a presentation on the aid received and the international assistance provided in the context of COVID-19 to countries of Euro-Mediterranean region.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-pprd-south-looks-back-international-assistance-countries>

Green innovation

17-Beirut: Berytech launches a ten-month programme called the “Green Applied Research & Innovations Support Programme” in the framework of the GIMED project. It aims to provide selected projects with the funding and networking opportunities to help their

green economy-oriented innovations access markets and create jobs.

<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/beryttech-through-gimed-launches-green-applied-research-and-innovations-support-program>

Cyber security

17-Online: Lebanese magistrates attend a meeting organised by the CyberSouth project with the aim of further developing the training manual for the training module on cyber crime and e-evidence targeting in-service magistrates and student magistrates in Lebanon.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-cybersouth-working-group-meeting-build-manual-cybercrime-and>

Police

17-Berlin: The Acting Head of EUPOL COPPS participates in the launch of the European Centre of Excellence for Civilian Crisis Management and makes the case, among other women leaders, for greater women’s participation in the EU’s civilian missions. Out of the EU’s 11 civilian missions, EUPOL COPPS has the highest proportion of female staff (around 40%).

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eupol-copps-acting-head-mission-katja-dominik-advocates-more-women-eu>

Democracy

19-Amman: Ahead of the 19th Jordanian parliamentary elections, the Independent Election Commission holds a mock election, in cooperation with the Hayat Centre-RASED, the EU and the Spanish Agency for International Development (AECID). While 600 young men and women participate in this exercise, it is the occasion to raise awareness about the importance of political participation.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/jordan/85447/iec-and-partners-hold-mock-elections-2020-parliamentary-elections_en

Women entrepreneurship

21-Vienna: The UNIDO, the Principality of Monaco and the UfM agree on a tripartite declaration focusing on empowering women in Tunisia through inclusive and sustainable industrial development,

thus providing more opportunities for women in the country, both as entrepreneurs or as employees.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/unido-em-power-women-in-tunisia/>

Human rights

21-Online: In the framework of the el-Hiwar II project, the College of Europe Development Office holds a two-day training session on the “Wider Human Rights Agenda,” organized with the Human Rights department of the League of Arab States (LAS) Secretariat. The aim is to explore the historical trajectory of human rights and how to monitor them efficiently.

<https://www.coleurope.eu/news/eu-funded-project-el-hiwar-ii-online-training-workshop-wider-human-rights-agenda>

Women's rights

21-Online: The project “Combating Violence against Women in the Southern Mediterranean Region,” funded by the EU and implemented by the EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI), holds a policy dialogue in partnership with the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development. It tackles the issue of combatting violence against women and strengthening women's rights in the COVID-19 context.

<http://www.efi-ife.org/sites/default/files/Press%20Release%20-%20Online%20Regional%20Policy%20Dialogue%2C%20English.pdf>

Gender and development

22/24-Algiers: The PADSEL-NOA programme facilitates a workshop on ways to foster greater integration and inclusion for women in the actions carried out throughout Algeria. The workshop focuses on the gender and development approach to foster sustainable and fair development involving both men and women.

https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/atelier_sur_lapproche_genre_dans_le_cadre_du_padsel_noa.pdf

Cyber resilience

22/24-Online: The CyberSouth project organizes two online training workshops on SOPs for Moroccan and Tunisian stakeholders. Through these, they im-

prove their understanding of international standards and the importance of having their domestic standards aligned with them. It deepens their knowledge on cybercrime investigations and evidence.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/cybersouth-first-national-workshops-standard-operating-procedures>

Industrial resources

24-Online: In the framework of the training on “Resource Efficiency in Industry” organized by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) as part of the SwitchMed and MED TEST III projects, 20 academics from Jordanian universities receive an introduction to the tools for a Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP). In addition, they receive a certification on UNIDO's TEST methodology.

<https://switchmed.eu/>

Ecosystem preservation

25/27-Various places: The COMMON project promotes the Clean Up the Med campaign, involving participants and institutions from all around the Mediterranean. The campaign aims not only to physically remove waste from natural ecosystems but also to raise awareness concerning ecosystem preservation.

<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/clean-med-back-promoted-common-project>

Tourism

28-Online: The ENI CBC Med Programme organizes the webinar “Building a resilient tourism sector in the COVID-19 era: challenges and opportunities in the Mediterranean” to celebrate World Tourism Day. It gathers representatives of four of the programme's tourism-related projects to shed light on how they address the new reality imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/webinar-building-resilient-tourism-sector-covid-19-era-challenges-and-opportunities-mediterranean>

Urban resilience

29-Online: The Government of Catalonia and the IEMed organize with the collaboration of the UfM a webinar on “Rethinking Urban Resilience in a Post-Covid-19 Mediterranean.” It dis-

cusses the urban agenda of the Mediterranean in the context of the pandemic and the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Process.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/fr/webinar-rethinking-urban-resilience-in-a-post-covid-19-mediterranean/>

Youth

30-Online: The ALF's Young Mediterranean Voices “Virtual” Euro-Med Debate and Policy Forum starts, with the participation of young leaders from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea. It provides a programme of intercultural dialogues, policy roundtables and provides a great networking platform for Mediterranean youths.

<https://youngmedvoices.org/media/events/%E2%80%98young-med-voices%E2%80%99-regional-virtual-forum-harnessing-youth-led-efforts-euro?fbclid=IwAR14yN7ua9pCOOacZUIXbOGKvbm-0HzhRsFHttIJI7ElvheCLxr5Ktkefw>

Dialogue

30-Online : The ALF organizes the Virtual Marathon for Dialogue in the EuroMed Region. It aims to offer a platform for dialogue about the future, in the framework of the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Process, and give visibility vis-à-vis the broad public.

<https://www.annalindhoundation.org>

October

Coastal tourism

1-Tyr: The project “Co-evolution of coastal human activities & Med natural systems for sustainable tourism & Blue Growth in the Mediterranean” (Co-Evolve4BG) is presented in Lebanon. The project's team insists on the need for cooperation with local communities to develop sustainable tourism in the pilot areas of Tyr and Batroun.

www.enicbcmed.eu/co-evolve4bg-infoday-meeting-lebanon

Microfinance

1-Tunis: The MedSt@rts project launches a series of local microfinance forums in Tunisia, which will then be followed up by forums in Greece, Italy, Lebanon and Palestine. They aim to establish a

cross-border strategy to facilitate access to microfinance and provide a networking platform for microfinance players and entrepreneurs.

www.enicbcmed.eu/medstrts-and-local-microfinance-forums

Cyber resilience

1-Online: In the framework of CyberSouth's online workshop on SOPs for Lebanon, the assessment of the Lebanese legal framework for handling e-evidence is presented. The workshop also highlights the benefits of aligning domestic proceedings with international SOPs.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/cybersouth-first-national-workshop-standard-operating-procedures>

Social and solidarity economy

5-Online: The project "Co-producing social policies with SSE actors to fight poverty, inequality and social exclusion" (MedTOWN) is launched with 500 participants attending from 16 countries, including representative of the UfM Secretariat.

www.enicbcmed.eu/medtown-proves-social-and-solidarity-economy-tool-social-change-mediterranean-basin

Electricity

7-Online: MEDREG and Mediterranean Transmission System Operators (MedTSO) organize a webinar on "Cross-border cost allocation for electricity projects in the Mediterranean." The webinar aims to identify the needs and interests of countries involved and the need for a comprehensible and transparent framework.

www.medreg-regulators.org/

Justice

7-Brussels: Eurojust hosts the new phase of the EuroMed Justice Programme. Serving as a base for the partners, it intends to enhance cross-border strategic collaboration in criminal matters and improve capacity building in the framework of justice cooperation between the EU and the southern Mediterranean countries.

www.eurojust.europa.eu/eurojust-hosts-euomed-justice-programme-step-cooperation

Social dialogue

8-Online: The UfM holds its 4th Social Dialogue Forum with the participation of the UfM, the European Commission and the ILO and 117 participants. They address the issues related to the Euro-Mediterranean labour markets in the context of COVID-19.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/4th-ufm-social-dialogue-forum/>

Culture and heritage

8-Online: The UfM Economic Development and Employment Division holds its fourth webinar on socioeconomic developments in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. It looks at how cultural and creative industries can be a source of employment creation in the current crisis.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/creativity-heritage-youth/>

Private sector

9-Online: In the framework of EBSOMED, BUSINESSMED organizes a webinar on "Connecting business initiatives response to COVID-19: transforming the private sector engagement through SDGs". It focuses on the responses of the private sector with regards to COVID-19 and in line with the SDGs.

<http://ebsomed.eu/en/content/activit-s/connecting-business-initiatives-response-covid19-transforming-private-sector>

Marine litter

9-Monastir: The COMMON project holds the first local working group, providing a training session for local stakeholders. It promotes the relationship between marine litter reduction and Integral Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). Tourist establishments, representatives of associations, fishermen and companies committed to promoting environmental sustainability are among the attendees.

www.enicbcmed.eu/common-project-local-working-group-monastir-tunisia-reduce-marine-litter

Migration

13-Online: EU and IOM officials meet for the seventh joint strategic meeting. They discuss ways to advance their strategic partnership in light of the New

Pact on Migration and Asylum, recalling the importance of comprehensive and tailor-made partnerships to address challenges related to migration.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/86888/strengthened-partnerships-migration-discussed-seventh-eu-iom-strategic-meeting_en

Digitalization

13-Online: More than 60 cultural actors from the Euro-Mediterranean regions gather to discuss the topic of digitalization in culture as part of the networking event Creative Europe Matchmaking.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/creative-europe-first-networking-event-series-discusses-digitalization>

Social entrepreneurship

14-Medea: The PADSEL-NOA programme organizes training sessions on social and rural entrepreneurship for young project leaders. The sessions are held in the provinces of Medea and Tiaret in Algeria and, aim to encourage entrepreneurship in rural areas.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/padssel-noa-programme-organises-training-sessions-social-entrepreneurship>

Cyber resilience

14-Online: The CyberSouth project pursues its programme of online workshops with two workshops for Tunisian and Algerian stakeholders responsible for drafting cybercrime procedural law, on the topic of procedural law provisions, cybercrime and e-evidence treatment.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-cybersouth-national-workshops-cybercrime-procedural-law-algeria>

Entrepreneurship

14/18-Online: The project Med Dialogue for Rights and Equality launches a capacity development bootcamp with the participation of 32 leaders from ten Arab countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region. The central theme is "entrepreneurship for the social and solidarity economy."

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-med-dialogue-rights-and-equality-bootcamp-focus-entrepreneurship>

Civil protection

15-Online: The PPRD South 3 projects holds an online meeting on the different experiences of using civil protection medical teams on a national level and during the outbreak of COVID-19. It helps participants to understand the remaining challenges and the upgrades needed in this field.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-pprd-south-3-online-meeting-shares-experiences-use-national>

Energy

19-Rome: The Med-TSO association launches its new project "Towards an Efficient, Adequate, Sustainable and Inter-connected MEDiterranean power system" (TEASIMED) with the backing of the European Commission. It aims to achieve the successful integration of Med-TSO members' power systems throughout the region.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-supported-med-tso-association-starts-its-newest-project-teasimed>

Migration

19-Cairo: The EU, Germany and the Egyptian government launch the project "Towards a Holistic Approach to Labour Migration Governance and Labour Mobility in North Africa" (THAMM) in Egypt, coordinated with the ILO, the IOM and the GIZ. The project will be implemented over a period of 36 months, establishing regional dialogue and cooperation for migration and mobility.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/egypt/87188/egypt-eu-and-germany-officially-launch-%E2%80%9Ctowards-holistic-approach-labour-migration-governance_en

Maritime security

20/21-Online: The team of the project SAFEMED IV participates in the 22nd Committee meeting of the Mediterranean Memorandum of Understanding (Med MoU) on Port State Control (PSC) monitor the development of the information system THETIS-MED, eight months after its launch.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-safemed-iv-updates-new-information-system-thetis-med>

Children trafficking and smuggling

21-Online: The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and the IOM hold a webinar on countering the trafficking and smuggling of children in the European Union and the MENA. The event is attended by UNICEF, UNODC and UNHCR among others.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/frontex-and-iom-hold-webinar-countering-trafficking-and-smuggling-children>

Small businesses

22-Online: In the framework of the MED MSMEs programme, the Working Group on the Internationalization of SMEs meets and gathers 30 participants from Moroccan government agencies and private and finance sectors. A Particular attention is given to the contribution of MSMEs to the post-COVID-19 recovery.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/morocco-eu-funded-project-reflects-measures-boost-funding-moroccan-msmes>

Blue economy

22-Online: The HELIOS project organizes a webinar regarding the job opportunities linked to the sustainable economy. Titled "the role of the Blue and Circular Economy in promoting employment and social inclusion in the Mediterranean Region," its aim is to explore the sustainable economy as a way to foster the inclusion of young people and women in Mediterranean countries.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/helios-webinar-role-blue-and-circular-economy-promoting-employment-and>

Dialogue

22-Online : The 16th Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the 5+5 Dialogue is held under the co-presidency of Malta and Tunisia, with a strong focus on the issue of regional security, inclusive and sustainable development, youth and employment and migration.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/foreign-affairs-ministers-55-2020/>

Energy performance

22-Online: MedEcoSuRe launches a training course on the evaluation of the energy performance of existing university

buildings, targeting undergraduate and postgraduate students from Italy, Palestine and Tunisia. The aim is to promote actions that contribute to the improvement of the performance of the thermal systems and the decrease of their energy consumption.

<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/med-ecosure-online-course>

Inclusive education

23-Jerusalem: The EU and the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) partner to increase access to quality inclusive education for young Palestinian girls and boys in the East Jerusalem area. This implies the construction of the Jerusalem Innovation Park (JIP), a flagship educational complex focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-partners-unops-improve-access-quality-inclusive-education-east>

Local development

24-Algiers: The programme "Participatory Democracy and Local Development" (CapDeL) launches its second incubator for local development community projects. It comprises two five-day training sessions on project cycle management for executives from about 60 associations.

https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fr_-_capdel_-_communiqu_2e_incubateurs_projets_associatifs_ma.pdf

Youth

26-Online: Young Mediterranean Voices launches a two-month programme of debate tournaments across eight southern Mediterranean countries. Approximately 600 young debaters and debate facilitators are expected to participate in the programme.

<https://youngmedvoices.org/>

Sustainable development

27-Tunis: A cooperation agreement is signed between the National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies (INSTM) and the Mediterranean Renewable Energies Centre (MEDREC). It aims to foster synergies between both institutions and to unify their expertise.

<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/tunisia-med-ecosure-co-evolve4bg-two-projects-funded-eni-cbc-med-create-synergies-targeting>

Industry

28-Online: The UfM holds its Regional Platform on Industrial Cooperation with the participation of representatives of the European Commission, public authorities, business associations and international organizations. They discuss a number of EU policies, namely the green and digital transitions and the strategy for SMEs among others, in light of the COVID-19 context.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/regional-industrial-cooperation-covid-19/>

Employment

29-Online: The UfM organizes the second edition of the Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4Jobs) Stakeholders Dialogue to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the region's employment landscape and the actions to be taken to ensure labour market resilience.

https://ufmsecretariat.org/med4jobs-stakeholders-dialogue-and-advisory-board/?fbclid=IwAR2nrYn9Dnja4Jorko2W1T8o89HXMgn2suYB_SqzpVc-vTwksKMPB_Qbvo0

November

Migration

4-Online: The EUROMED Migration IV (EMM4) project holds a webinar titled "Migrant Vulnerabilities along the Mediterranean Migration Routes: A Perspective on Structural Challenges and Current Developments". It addresses the issue of irregular migration and the vulnerabilities of migrants in the Mediterranean. It also discusses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migratory flows.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/euromed-migration-project-holds-webinar-migrant-vulnerabilities>

Innovation

4-Online: The EBRD in Tunisia launches a series of workshops to provide training for SME managers and executives on "innovation as a tool for economic development: identifying opportunities". The aim is to share good practices and behaviour that lead to innovation as a development tool.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-tunisia-promotes-innovation-tool-economic-development>

Circular economy

5-Online: The "Textile Mediterranean Alliances for Business Development, Internationalization and Innovation" (TEX-MED Alliances) and STAND Up! projects organize a conference on "Fostering circular textiles and fashion in the Mediterranean." It aims to explain the challenges for circular textile economies in the region and to showcase success stories in this sector.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-web-conference-focus-circular-textiles-economy-mediterranean>

Cyber resilience

5-Online: CyberSouth holds the Tunisian and Lebanese national meetings dedicated to the preparation of the annual cybercrime situation report, an opportunity for experts to share their views on their countries' situation by emphasizing the cyberthreats, statistics and reporting, policies and strategies.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/cybersouth-national-workshops-preparation-cybercrime-and-e-evidence>

Intercultural dialogue

10-Online: The ALF and UNIMED jointly deliver an online course titled "Euro-Mediterranean Intercultural Trends." It targets a large audience comprising social workers and researchers, students, school teachers and journalists, who operate in intercultural settings.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/anna-lindh-online-course-euro-mediterranean-intercultural-trends-learning>

Trade

10-Online: The UfM holds its 11th Trade Ministerial Conference with the participation of representatives of the 42 member countries. The aim is to launch three new trade initiatives aimed at stimulating employment and fostering inclusive economic development.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-ministers-highlight-regional-trade/>

Small businesses

11-Online: MED MSMEs holds the first meeting of its working group on internationalization of MSMEs with representa-

tives of ten national and international organisations. They discuss export support strategies in view of the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-med-msmes-addresses-internationalisation-tunisian-smes>

Energy

11-Online: Med-TSO holds the webinar titled "Mediterranean Grid Code and its application to the Maghreb Pilot Project." It presents the work done through Mediterranean Project 1 and 2, which serves as a basis for the elaboration of the Mediterranean Grid Codes Guidelines.

<https://www.med-tso.com/notizia.aspx?id=171&t=1&f>

Sustainable growth

11-Online: The MedThink 5+5 gathers representatives of the western Mediterranean countries involved in the 5+5 Dialogue for a webinar titled "From Crisis to Recovery in the Western Mediterranean: Challenges and Opportunities on the road to a Post-COVID-19 Sustainable Growth," organized by the IEMed and the Policy Centre for the New South (PCNS).

<https://medthink5plus5.org/en/2020/11/12/new-webinar-medthink-55-from-crisis-to-recovery-in-the-western-mediterranean/>

Trade and Investment

12-Barcelona: The UfM hosts its Trade and Investment Forum titled "Creating Opportunities for Jobs in Times of COVID-19." The event discusses the opportunities related to a future shortening of supply chains for Mediterranean and EU-Africa integration in light of the economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic at world and regional level.

<https://www.ufm4trade.org/>

Gender equality

16/20-Online: The UfM holds a high-level conference on "Accelerating gender equality in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic." It takes stock of what has been achieved in this area in the last 25 years since the adoption of the Barcelona Process and the Beijing Declaration.

It stresses the impact of the pandemic on women and aims to highlight the role of women in addressing the pandemic. <https://ufmsecretariat.org/event/women4mediterraneanconference-2020/>

Migration management

17/19-Tripoli: The ICMPD, under the project “Strategic and Institutional Management of Migration in Libya,” provides two training sessions on consular crisis management and migration governance for Libyan authorities’ representatives. The aim is to enhance authorities’ preparedness when facing these issues. <https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/libyan-authorities-representatives-trained-migration-and-crisis-management>

Civil protection

18-Beirut: Following the wildfires which affected the lives of 200,000 people of Syria’s coastal regions, the EU provides €80,000 to support the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in the delivery of relief in the form of cash assistance and disaster preparedness, targeting 12,500 of the most vulnerable people. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/syria/88907/european-union-supports-humanitarian-relief-syrians-affected-wildfires_en

Energy

18-Online: The Med-TSO launches the Mediterranean Power Statistics web platform which gathers essential data about the performances of the Mediterranean power systems and the interconnections of the 19 countries members and presents it publicly. www.med-tso.com/notizia.aspx?Id=172&t=1&f

Dialogue

19-Online: The Med Dialogue for Rights and Equality holds an event on “Civil society engagement in policy dialogue” with Mediterranean civil society representatives, offering them an understanding of the opportunities offered by the adoption of policy dialogue as the main programming tool for international cooperation. <https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-med-dialogue-rights-and-equality-discusses-civil-society>

Digital transformation

19-Online: The UfM Secretariat organizes an event addressing the challenges posed by the acceleration of the digital transformation in higher education, underlined by the COVID-19 pandemic. It demonstrates how these challenges can be turned into opportunities for the improvement of inclusive education. <https://ufmsecretariat.org/digital-transformation-higher-education/>

Green cities

19-London: The EBRD doubles its funding for its urban sustainability programme EBRD Green Cities by €950 million. The programme aims to reach 100 cities by 2024 and to significantly reduce their gas emissions to make them more sustainable. www.ebrd.com/news/2020/flagship-ebrd-green-cities-doubles-in-size-.html

Rural development

20-Online: The Mediterranean Week of Economic Leaders (MedaWeek Barcelona) celebrates its 14th edition, on the occasion of which FASTER holds its first brokerage event titled “Rural Development Boost Through Transfer Of Research Excellence.” <https://faster-h2020.eu/index.php/2020/12/01/research-excellence-to-boost-innovation-in-the-rural-areas/>

Regional dialogue

23-Online: The South Programme IV, co-funded by the EU and the Council of Europe, is launched with a focus on the following area of cooperation: “Regional Support to Reinforce Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean.” It takes stock of past cooperation with Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Palestine. <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/south-programme/>

Regional dialogue

23/27-Online: The MAJALAT initiative holds workshop related to the Southern Neighbourhood Policy Seminar. The aim is to involve participants in a dialogue gathering European institutions and civil society organisations.

It stresses the challenges facing civil society under the region’s current socioeconomic circumstances. <https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/civil-society-majalat-southern-neighbourhood-policy-seminar-look-eu-future>

Innovating entrepreneurship

24-Online: The ENI CBC MED programme launches the project “Innovative Sustainable Start-Ups for the Mediterranean” (INVESTMED). The project aims to support the development of sustainable business initiatives in Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia and involves training for staff of newly funded enterprises to become more sustainable and innovative. <https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/launch-eu-funded-project-investmed-kick-meeting>

Civil society

24-Online: To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Process, the UfM pays tribute to the ENI CBC Med Programme in its Civil Society Forum, an event where civil society actors’ role in addressing several challenges related to the region discussed at length and highlighted. <http://www.enicbcmed.eu/celebrations-25th-anniversary-barcelona-process-eni-cbc-med-programme-recognized-key-initiative>

Gender equality

25-Online: The European Commission, the EEAS and the German Presidency of the EU host the high-level event “Towards a Gender-Equal World” for the launch of the EU Gender Action Plan – an ambitious agenda for gender equality and women’s empowerment in EU external action (GAP III), which deals with key themes for addressing the gender gap in several areas. <https://towards-gender-equal-world-eu.b2match.io/page-3071>

Women protection

25-Online: DG NEAR and the EU Delegations in the Southern Neighbourhood organize an event to take a stand against all forms of gender-based violence and particularly Violence Against Women and Girls, to mark the Interna-

tional Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/webinar-say-no-and-stop-violence-against-women-and-girls>

Tourism

25-Tunis: The EBRD and the World Tourism Organization launch a technical assistance mission to support the Tunisian tourism sector. It foresees the development of a roadmap for the revival of Tunisian tourism and a focus on digitalization, sustainable development and inclusion.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/european-bank-reconstruction-and-development-and-world-tourism>

EU-Southern Neighbourhood

26-Online: The EU HR/VP chairs the EU-Southern Neighbourhood partner countries Foreign Ministers' meeting. Spain is hosting the meeting and the Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement participates. They discuss the different challenges facing the partnership and how to renew the priorities. https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news_corner/news/eu-and-southern-neighbourhood-partner-countries-discuss-their-future-partnership_en

Human trafficking

26 - Online: In the framework of the South Programme IV, a webinar on regional action against trafficking in human beings in the southern Mediterranean is organised. It is attended by authorities' representatives of various southern Mediterranean countries as well as members of the civil society and it identifies the common priorities and challenges facing the countries of the region in this matter.

<https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/south-programme/>

EU-Southern Neighbourhood

27-Online: EU Neighbours and Kantar Public release the results of their joint survey on the perceptions of Mediterranean countries about the EU and the values it is associated with. 59% of respondents in the Maghreb region say that relations between their country and

the EU are good, compared to 67% in the Mashrek countries. Both regions see EU financial support as being effective.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-perceptions-southern-neighbourhood-countries-new-poll-results-2020>

Barcelona process

27-Online: The UfM holds its fifth Regional Forum to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona process. They also choose 28 November as the International Day of the Mediterranean to be celebrated each year.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/5th-regional-forum-news/>

Innovation

30-Online: The UfM Secretary General takes part in Slovenia's Innovation Day titled "Symptoms of creativity". SG highlights the commitment to supporting the creative sector in the Euro-Mediterranean region, especially through its partnership with the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/slovenia-innovation-day-2020/>

Intercultural dialogue

30-Online: The heads of networks of the ALF meet and take part in discussions and reflections on the next strategic orientations of the programming phase. It is attended by 33 network coordinators and chaired by the President of the ALF.

www.annalindhfoundation.org/news/online-heads-networks-annual-meeting-2020

December

Energy regulation

1-Online: The MEDREG organizes a training event on the role and scope of energy regulation. It details the objectives addressed by regulatory authorities, as well as their core powers and competences through a course on fundamental energy economics.

<http://www.medreg-regulators.org/>

EU-Palestine

1-Jerusalem: The EU-Palestine Investment Platform is launched to support

the roll-out of the EU External Investment Plan in Palestine. Its aim is to help identify, prioritize and coordinate the investment opportunities that the EU offers through its Investment Plan and to ensure the alignment of Palestine's publicly sponsored investments with political, policy and reform priorities.

Border management

1-Online: The Executive Director of Frontex opens the first Euro-Arab Technical Roundtable on Border Management and Security with the participation of representatives of 18 EU states and 14 Arab states. It addresses challenges such as health at the borders, cross-border crime and other multi-dimensional threats facing the security of the region.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu4bordersecurity-project-eu-and-arab-states-meet-discuss-common-border>

Labour migration

2-Tunis: The THAMM programme is officially launched in Tunisia. Tunisia is one of the three countries of implementation, alongside Morocco and Egypt. The programme fosters safe, regular migration for North African countries and aims to build mutually beneficial partnerships. <https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/north-africa-eu-launches-programme-promote-fair-labour-migration>

EU-Lebanon

2-Brussels: The EU HR/VP and the President of the European Council participate in the "Conference in support of the Lebanese people," hosted by the French President and the UN Secretary General. The EU mobilizes an additional €100 million of financial support to Lebanon in order to face the devastating impact following the explosion in the Beirut port.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/89806/lebanon-hrvp-josep-borrell-eu-support-international-donors%E2%80%99-conference_en

EU-Algeria

7-Brussels: The EU HR/VP and the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs chair

the 12th session of the Association Council between Algeria and the EU. It is an occasion for both parties to review the state of their cooperation and to identify common challenges and interests in the current context.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/algeria/90038/communiqu%C3%A9-de-presse-%C3%A0-loccasion-de-la-vid%C3%A9oconf%C3%A9rence-des-membres-du-conseil-dassociation-ue_fr

Sustainable cities

7-Various places: The Clima-Med project and the UNDP Country Entrepreneurship for Distributed Renewables Opportunities (CEDRO 5) project in Lebanon team up to develop pilot projects in Lebanese municipalities to serve as a basis and model to replicate for future actions. One of the aims is to make municipalities more sustainable from the point of view of energy production and consumption.

<https://www.climamed.eu/cooperation-between-eu-clima-med-and-cedro-v-projects-in-lebanon/>

Youth

7-Online: The ALF and the Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) organise the Communications Lab of the Young Mediterranean Voices. It focuses on fostering youth-led dialogue and youth-led creative communication initiatives to challenge extremist narratives in the digital world.

<https://www.annalindhfoundation.org/news/2020-edition-young-med-voices-communications-lab-goes-virtual-7-11-december-2020>

Radicalization and extremism

8-Online: The project CONNEKT holds a seminar on “Researching on radicalization and violent extremism in times of COVID-19”. It explores the drivers of radicalization and violent extremism in the specific context of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also explores with the participation of policy-makers how the CONNEKT project can better serve the European Union’s challenges concerning Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism.

<https://h2020connekt.eu/the-project/>

Water jobs

10-Online: The UfM organizes a webinar on “The Future of Water Jobs: Post Covid-19 Opportunities for Youth in the Mediterranean.” It aims to highlight opportunities for youth in the water sector and stresses the role youth can play in the adaptation of the economy in the face of the challenges raised by the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/future-water-jobs-post-covid-19-opportunities/>

Urban development

10-Online: The UfM holds its Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development. It recommends the adoption of the UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040 for sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities and communities in the Mediterranean and of the UfM Action Plan for Sustainable and Affordable Housing.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/urban-agenda-meeting/>

Criminal justice

10-Online: CyberSouth holds its fifth steering committee meeting with the participation of the main stakeholders from Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. Its aim is to review the progress made within the project and validate the next project implementation plans.

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/cyber-crime/-/cybersouth-extended-commitment-from-priority-countries-during-the-fifth-steering-committee>

Education

14-Online: Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange holds its closing event. Experts, educators, youth workers and university staff involved celebrate the lessons learned and the achievements of the process. The participants also share their experience as part of the Virtual Exchange.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/follow-erasmus-virtual-exchange-closing-event-online>

Entrepreneurship

14-Sebha: Six Libyan entrepreneurs and small business owners are awarded grants of up to \$40,000 to further develop their businesses. The financing is provided by the EU and occurs in the framework of the “Re-Start-Up

marathon,” a UNDP initiative in several Libyan cities.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/libya/90569/eu-undp-initiative-supports-entrepreneurs%E2%80%99-recovery-sebha_en

Police

14/15 - Jericho: EUPOL COPPS provides training to the Palestinian police, in cooperation with the PCP. It aims to modernize the mechanism and process for evaluating Palestinian police officers’ performance.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-police-mission-training-provides-new-perspectives-professional>

EU-Southern Neighbourhood

15-Online: In the framework of EuroMeSCo: Connecting the Dots, the IEMed launched the 11th Euromed Survey titled “Towards a Renewed Partnership between the EU and its Southern Neighbours” in the context of the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration and against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/european-institute-mediterranean-open-consultation-launched-future-eu>

Media

15-Online: The ALF and EMUNI hold the fourth virtual Intercultural Trends and Media platform about “Cross-cultural reporting and EuroMed mobility.” It provides journalists, academics and civil society representatives with a platform to share initial ideas on the topic.

<https://www.annalindhfoundation.org/news/4th-virtual-intercultural-trends-and-media-platform-unimed-cross-cultural-reporting-and>

Sustainable tourism

15-Online: The WestMED Assistance Mechanism promotes a webinar organized by BlueMed and focusing on strengthening ties and opportunities with Southern Partners with regard to sustainable tourism. It also seeks to reflect on possible synergies between related problems.

<https://www.westmed-initiative.eu/events/sustainable-tourism-in-the-westmed-strengthening-ties-with-southern-partners-15-december-2020-webinar/>

Science

15/16 - Online: The UfM and the project Using Science Diplomacy for Addressing Global Challenges (S4D4C) organize a workshop on “Science and Innovation Diplomacy in the Mediterranean.” It takes stock of existing regional public policies on research and innovation, and reflects on the way in which scientists, political-makers and diplomats can jointly respond to global and regional challenges.
<https://ufmsecretariat.org/science-diplomacy-mediterranean/>

Socioeconomic resilience

17/18 - Online: The EMNES holds its annual conference titled “What Pillars for Resilience of the Socio-Economic Models Post COVID-19 Pandemic in the Mediterranean?”. It presents the work and research of the EMNES on the various pillars which could be conducive to resilience, namely digitalization, financial inclusion, social protection and safety net, and regional integration via regional value chains.
<https://emnes.org/news/emnes-virtual-annual-conference-2020-what-pillars-for-resilience-of-the-socio-economic-models-post-covid-19-pandemic-in-the-mediterranean-17-18-december-2020/>

Women's empowerment

18-Online: In the framework of EBSOMED, BUSINESSMED organizes a webinar on gender equality policies. It aims to foster a debate on women's participation in public life and decision-making and on ways to foster increased women's representation across all industries.
<http://ebsomed.eu/en/content/activities/businessmed-thematic-committee-webinar-gender-mainstreaming-and-women-empowerment>

Financial instrument

18-Brussels: The European Parliament and EU Member States in the Council reach an agreement on a €79.5-billion Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) for the period 2021-2027. It aims to step up the funding for the EU's external action.
https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news_corner/news/european-commission-welcomes-political-agreement-future-%E2%82%AC795-billion-new-instrument_en

Dialogue

21-Online: The Dialogue of the Two Shores launches its new online platform. It aims to promote the projects which are part of the initiative and to offer a secure intranet for project coordinators to share information among themselves and with the investors, international organizations and partners involved.
<https://www.annalindhfoundation.org/news/launch-digital-platform-dialogue-two-shores>

EU-Lebanon

23-Brussels: The EU steps up its support for Lebanon with an additional financial support package of €100 million. It seeks to help the country recover from the damages caused by the Beirut port blast, both economically and socially.
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2516

Sustainable development

23-Brussels: The EU adopts the Guarantee Agreements under the European Fund for Sustainable Development Guarantee. In this framework, it agrees to provide €500 million to the EU

Neighbourhood to help the private sector to better face the impact of the socio-economic crisis and build more resilient economies.
https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news_corner/news/eu-signs-final-guarantee-agreements-under-european-fund-sustainable-development_en

Culture

26-Karama: The Karama Human Rights Film Festival launches its 11th edition and presents 40 films. The theme is “Memory of being” and the EU Delegation to Jordan offers its support.
<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-jordan-supports-human-rights-film-festival>

Urban transport

29-Luxembourg: The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Arab Republic of Egypt sign a €1.128 billion agreement. The aim of this financing agreement is to support investments in the rehabilitation and expansion of metro and tram systems in Alexandria and Cairo.
<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-407-the-eu-bank-supports-urban-transport-in-egypt>

Private businesses

31-Luxembourg: The EIB provides a €425-million credit line to Banque Misr so it can help Egyptian MSMEs recover from the damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and to offer them an opportunity to participate in the country's economic recovery.
<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-409-team-europe-eib-and-banque-misr-work-together-to-support-private-businesses-and-speed-up-the-recovery-of-smes-from-covid-19-in-egypt>