

Chronologies

Euromed Chronology

January 2022

Gender

18-Rome: The UfM signs the Memorandum of Understanding “No Women No Panel,” an initiative by the European Commission and RAI. The Union for the Mediterranean participates in the campaign seeking to improve gender representation and equality in public debates in the Euro-Mediterranean Region. This Memorandum of Understanding commits the UfM and other signatory bodies to include female and male participants on panels as equally as possible.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/2022-mou-rai/>

Migrations

19-Brussels: The new European Union Agency for Asylum starts work with its reinforced mandate, building on the achievements of its predecessor, the European Asylum Support Office. The new agency is a key deliverable under the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. It will help ensure that asylum decisions are taken in a fast and fair manner and that reception standards converge across the EU, increasing uniformity in decision-making and alignment between Member States’ asylum systems. The new agency will receive €172 million of EU funds in 2022 and will launch eight operations supporting asylum and reception authorities in Member States.

<https://euaa.europa.eu/>

Youth

20-Brussels: The EU Neighbours South programme launches a new activity, EU JEEL CONNECT, in order to create awareness around the EU’s commitment to contribute to a better future for young people across the Southern Neighbourhood. EU JEEL CONNECT is a network

of young individuals, led by inspiring young changemakers from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

<https://south.euneighbours.eu/news/launch-eu-jeel-connect-network-connect-act-lead/>

Fisheries

25/27-Sfax: As part of the Mediterranean Forum For Applied Ecosystem-Based Management project (MED4EBM), the Tunisian National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies (INSTM) runs training on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries. The training focuses on providing participants with the required methodologies and management tools to plan and implement the ecosystem approach to fisheries in the Kneiss Islands region, ensuring the sustainable exploitation of the target species.

www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/med4ebm

Environment & Sustainability

26-Online: Kickoff meeting of the project “Plastic Busters CAP: Fostering knowledge transfer to tackle marine litter in the Mediterranean,” under the umbrella of the UfM initiative “Plastic Busters” and SDSN MED, led by the University of Siena. Its aim is to become an instrument for improving Integrated Coastal Zone Management, resulting in better local development planning. The project will be implemented in Greece, Italy, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Spain and Tunisia over the next two years.

www.enicbcmed.eu/combating-marine-litter-mediterranean-through-integrated-and-strategic-management-approach-plastic

Disability and Social Inclusion

26/27-Barcelona: This first Conference on Disability and Social Inclusion in the

Euro-Mediterranean Region takes place in Barcelona, hosted in partnership by the UfM and Spanish ONCE Social Group. The conference analyses three key challenges: the limitations that people with disabilities face to access human rights and employment, the importance of a gender perspective in agendas and recovery programmes and the role of accessible tourism.

https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/UfM_ONCE_DISABILITY_FinalReport_08.pdf

Civil Society

29/2-Valencia: The EU-funded programme Med Dialogue for Rights and Equality organizes its third Med Dialogue Leaders Bootcamp under the topic “developing critical thinking tools.” The objective of this Bootcamp is to equip participants from the Euromed space, with core skills around critical thinking, problem assessment and fact-checking. Med Dialogue for Rights and Equality is a three-year EU-funded technical assistance regional programme with the overall objective to strengthen the role of CSOs.

<https://meddialogue.eu/>

February 2022

Health

1-Brussels: As of February 2022, the EU has donated over 5 million vaccine doses for Syrians. This includes donations from Greece (144,000 doses), Czechia (38,400 doses), Sweden (536,640 doses), Finland (7,800 doses), Spain (381,600 doses) and Italy (3,996,000 doses). These donations, which were facilitated by COVAX, are part of ongoing efforts by the European Union and its Member States to provide

Syrians across the country with adequate protection against the Covid-19 pandemic. The EU and its Member States are so far the biggest donor of Covid-19 vaccines in the world, having donated over 350 million doses to countries around the world.

www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/teameurope-over-5-million-doses-donated-syria_en

Development

7/8-Marseille: The Forum des mondes méditerranéens is held in Marseille, organized by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. This event brings together nearly 1,000 participants from the Euro-Mediterranean region around topics such as the environment, education, employment, entrepreneurship, inclusion and solidarity, culture, territorial action and sustainable development. The event also involves the Anna Lindh Foundation and the UfM.

www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/

Development & Aid

10-London: The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) approves its country strategy for Egypt for the period 2022-2027, which focuses on three key priorities: promoting an inclusive economy; the green economy transition; and supporting private-sector growth and strengthening governance.

www.ebrd.com/news/2022/ebd-approves-new-country-strategy-for-egypt.html

Business

14-Online: In the framework of the EU-Africa Business Forum, BUSINESS-MED is organizing a conference on the value chains between Africa, the Mediterranean and Europe entitled "How to support the EU-MED-AFRICA private sector to build strong value chains." The conference highlights the opportunity for reshoring and nearshoring businesses on the southern Mediterranean shores and in sub-Saharan Africa, after the disruption of global value chains by the effects of Covid-19.

www.businessmed-umce.org/

Humanitarian aid

15-Brussels: The European Commission announces its humanitarian funding for North Africa for 2022, amounting to €18 million. The funding will support

some of the most vulnerable people in Algeria, Egypt and Libya and will be distributed as follows: €9 million to Algeria to help vulnerable Sahrawi refugees; €5 million to Egypt to help the most vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers and €4 million to Libya to help address humanitarian needs in health, education and protection for those most in need.

https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/news-stories/news/humanitarian-aid-eu-allocates-eu-18-million-algeria-egypt-and-libya-2022-02-15_en

Syria

16-Brussels: The European Commission (EC) DG NEAR hosts the 17th edition of the Core Group on donor coordination for recovery, resilience and development responses to the Syrian crisis. The meeting brings together representatives from 13 key donor countries, international organizations, financial institutions and regional funds, and the relevant EU services. Donors exchange views on early recovery in the Syrian context, deliberates on the pressing issue of violence against women and girls and discusses the need for continued support to Syrian refugees displaced in the broader region.

https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/dg-near-hosts-17th-meeting-core-donors-group-response-syrian-crisis-16022022-2022-02-16_en

Urban Development

17-Online: Third meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development. The meeting provides UfM member states' representatives and stakeholders with an overview of the implementation of the UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040 and the UfM Housing Action Plan. It informs participants about the main objectives of each one of the activities, and the expected involvement from Member States. The UfM Urban Agenda aims to support the creation of more resilient and inclusive cities in the Mediterranean region, with a focus on reducing inequalities and contributing to the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/platform/ufm-regional-platform-on-sustainable-urban-development/>

Digital transformation

22-Online: The European Training Foundation launches its digital initiative in the framework of the ETF Network for Excellence. The initiative's first phase will focus on the digital transformation of teaching and learning clustered into three macro areas: digital content and tools, teachers' digital competencies and digital pedagogical methods and concrete policy measures. The primary objective is to develop partnerships with both EU and non-EU countries.

<https://openspace.etf.europa.eu/pages/digitalisation-education-and-role-centres-excellence>

March 2022

Health

7-Barcelona: The UfM publishes the results of the first Report on Gender Equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The Intergovernmental Monitoring Mechanism on Gender Equality for the UfM region releases the report, sharing the latest information on women's economic participation, entrepreneurship and leadership in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Among others, the key data highlights that, compared to the global average, Europe and the MENA region are below the 6.2% global percentage of women entrepreneurs who own a business.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-releases-the-1st-progress-report-on-gender-equality-in-the-region/>

Digital transformation

7-London: First phase of the EBRD's technical support to the Suez Canal Economic Zone is successfully completed. The EBRD has been providing targeted technical support to the Suez Canal Economic Zone to deliver this autonomous, digital and interactive one-stop shop. The digital facilities will provide the speed and efficiency required to deliver investor services effectively, including licences and permits. The second phase will be launched during the first half of 2022 and will focus on the creation of a fully fledged digital and interactive one-stop service.

www.ebrd.com/news/2022/ebd-supports-the-digital-transformation-of-the-suez-canal-economic-zone.html

Anna Lindh Foundation

8-Alexandria/Online: Following the ALF Statutory bodies' meetings the Anna Lindh Foundation presents its new programming and main actions for 2022-2025. The Multi-Annual Work Programme 2022-2025, with a global budget of 9 million euros, is based on three approaches: Intercultural Dialogue Useful for Society; the complementarity of National and Regional Approaches with the traditional Euromed approach and the creation of synergies and complementarities through networks.

<https://annalindhfoundation.org/news/alf-new-programming-and-main-actions-2022-2025>

Development & Aid

9-Valencia: On the occasion of the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Water of the Dialogue 5+5, the MedThink 5+5 network of Western Mediterranean think tanks holds the thematic seminar "Building Climate Resilience in the Western Mediterranean: Water and Climate Change Adaptation Nexus." Co-organized by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO), this event aims to provide a space for dialogue among decision-makers, experts and water professionals from both shores of the western Mediterranean region to discuss ways to ensure water security, by adapting to the impacts of climate change on water resources in the region.

<https://medthink5plus5.org/en/2022/02/16/thematic-seminar-water-and-climate-change-adaptation-nexus-in-valencia/>

Water

10-Valencia: The third ministerial conference of the Western Mediterranean Forum (Dialogue 5+5) on Water takes place under the title "Water security and climate change in the Western Mediterranean: Fostering knowledge for practice." The conference stresses the critical importance of water security preservation under the recent challenges posed by climate change in the western Mediterranean region. The meeting ends with the adoption of the Valencia Declaration. Ministers and representatives commit to increasing water secu-

riety by implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at all levels, and adapting water management to the challenges of climate change.

<https://medthink5plus5.org/en/2022/03/14/third-ministerial-meeting-on-water-of-the-55-dialogue-in-valencia-2/>

Business & Entrepreneurship

16/17-Barcelona/Online: EMEA organizes and hosts the Ecosystemic Transition Unit (ETU Initiative) conference. The ETU initiative has been created and promoted by Interreg MED Renewable Energy as a platform to foster the ecosystem approach to energy transition, capitalizing on knowledge transfer and transnational cooperation across the Mediterranean region.

<https://etuinitiative.eu/events/etu-initiative-conference/>

Youth

19-Online: The regional Common Action "Rethink, Reconnect the Med," launched by the EU-Programme Med Dialogue for Rights and Equality, begins. It involves 29 young leaders working together in local, twinning or cross-border initiatives to raise awareness on, develop and apply critical thinking tools. The Action promotes the use and development of a critical thinking approach in their communities when addressing issues they care about.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1267

Urban & Health

21-Online: The UfM and WHO organize a webinar on "Urban Nature, Green Spaces and Health." The webinar takes stock of the latest evidence on the impact of green spaces on human health, including mental health. The participants of the webinar exchange views on policy opportunities, emerging approaches and good practices to design and implement policies that promote health through investments in the protection of nature and green spaces in urban settings.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/towards-more-liveable-healthy-cities/>

Social Enterprise

22-Online: Euclid Network and its local partners launches se-mena.org – the first regional online platform for the so-

cial enterprise sector in the MENA Region. The platform is an initiative in the scope of the EU-funded MedUP! project and currently includes organizations from Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon. The platform will be available in English, French and Arabic. It features the option of creating an organization profile for different SE key actors; provides a search function to identify and connect with relevant organizations; and a blog section.

<https://se-mena.org/>

Transport

28/30-Online: The UfM Regional Platform on Transport Connectivity and its Thematic Working Groups on Land Transport, Air Transport, Maritime Transport and Logistics convene to resume the technical preparations for the 3rd UfM Ministerial Conference on Transport which will be held in Cairo in October. The Working Groups discuss the consolidated version of the Regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean region (RTAP) for the period 2021-2027, with a view to finalizing it at the technical level. The meetings bring together national transport coordinators and focal points for land, air and maritime transport and logistics from the Ministries of Transport of UfM Member States, representatives of several Directorates-General of the EC, EU Transport Agencies and the European Transport Support project (ETSP), as well as key regional and international partner organizations.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_986

Research & Innovation, EU-Tunisia

29-Brussels/Tunis: Tunisia joins the Horizon Europe programme. The Commission and Tunisia sign an agreement granting the Republic of Tunisia association status for Horizon Europe, the EU's research and innovation programme (2021-2027). Tunisian researchers, innovators and research entities can now participate in the €95.5-billion programme, under the same conditions as entities from the EU Member States. The Horizon Europe Association Agreement will start having a legal effect after its entry into force, i.e., once Tunisia completes its ratification process, and an exchange of diplomatic notes takes place

between the Commission and the Tunisian authorities.

https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/republic-tunisia-joins-horizon-europe-worlds-largest-research-and-innovation-programme-2022-03-29_en

Development & Aid

30/31-Beirut: In the framework of the second phase of the “SOLiD project: Promoting Social Dialogue in the Southern Mediterranean countries,” the multilateral national workshop dedicated to Lebanon is launched. The conference brings together representatives of the European Union, international organizations, employers, trade unions, civil society organizations and local authorities to discuss ways to establish and strengthen social dialogue in the region, by strengthening formal structures that allow the implementation of agreements and labour rights.

<https://solidmed.eu/en>

April 2022

Migration

1-Tripoli: Since 2015, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has assisted 60,000 migrants in Libya in returning to their country in a safe and dignified manner through the Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme. The initiative has provided a critical lifeline to stranded migrants from 46 different countries across Africa and Asia who wish to return home and rebuild their lives. The Voluntary Humanitarian Return programme is funded by the EU under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration and through the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Migration Fund.

<https://libya.iom.int/news/voluntary-humanitarian-return-programme-offers-lifeline-60000-migrants-libya>

Lebanon

4-Beirut: The Consultative Group (CG) of the Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) holds its fourth meeting. The 3RF Consultative Group members take stock of the progress made to date under the 3RF supported programmes and reiterate the

group's call to address the protracted crisis. Discussions focus on three strategic issues, namely economic stabilization and recovery, social protection, and justice and accountability. The 3RF Consultative Group consists of the Government of Lebanon, Lebanese civil society, the EU, UN, the World Bank and international donors. Together, they monitor progress and give strategic direction to the reforms and activities under the 3RF. www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon/fourth-consultative-group-meeting-reform-recovery-and-reconstruction-framework_en?s=203

Innovation

5/6-Genoa: SME4SMARTCITIES organizes its first commercial mission. More than 50 entrepreneurs from Italy, Spain, Israel and Palestine meet in the city of Genoa, Italy to talk with local stakeholders and enrich their knowledge of the city. The activities include bilateral meetings between companies, matching sessions assisted by the facilitators and technology developers and active debates with local stakeholders. This event is the first of four commercial missions that will take place in the following weeks in Spain, Israel and Palestine.

www.enicbcmmed.eu/projects/sme4smartcities

Food Security

6-Brussels: The Commission acts in support of food security and resilience in the Southern Neighbourhood. As part of a wide-ranging response to mitigate the impact of Russia's war against Ukraine on the EU's partner countries, the European Commission has presented an initiative for a regional “Food and Resilience Facility” worth €225 million to address short and medium-term needs of the Southern Neighbourhood partners. It aims to address the consequences of rising food and commodity prices in the region. The facility will allow for specific interventions designed according to the domestic context and needs and will focus mainly on the most vulnerable people and/or the partners most severely affected by the crisis.

https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-acts-support-food-security-and-resilience-southern-neighbourhood-2022-04-06_en

Migration

11-Online: The EUROMED Migration V and EuroMeSCo network releases a survey of migration experts in the EU's Southern Neighbourhood titled “Towards sustainable and mutually beneficial migration partnerships in the South Mediterranean.” The survey highlights consensus amongst respondents of the survey that building economic opportunities and addressing root causes of irregular migration is the most important policy area, closely followed by countering the smuggling and trafficking of human beings.

www.icmpd.org/news/euromed-migration-v-and-euromesco-release-survey-of-migration-experts-in-eu-s-southern-neighbourhood

Heritage

11-Online: iHERITAGE members of the transnational focus group on intangible cultural heritage meet online to develop the first Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Euro-Mediterranean Countries. Experts, anthropologists and representatives from Egypt, Jordan, Portugal, Spain and Italy present some of the most important intangible elements from their countries. Up to now, 100 elements of Mediterranean culture and identity have already been analysed, studied and documented, and at least another 200 will be included in the register. By bringing together common elements and peculiarities from the shores of the Mediterranean, the register will allow users to browse texts, documents and multimedia materials on oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, social practices, rituals and traditional craftsmanship from the six countries involved in the project.

www.enicbcmmed.eu/projects/iheritage

Peace

21-Brussels: The Council of Europe adopts a decision establishing an assistance measure under the European Peace Facility (EPF) in support of the African Union worth €600 million. The EU reaffirms its strong commitment to the EU-AU partnership and to cooperation in the area of peace and security. The three-year Assistance Measure continues the established provision of long-term EU support to African-led Peace Support Operations. Within its

framework, the African Union will be able to request support for individual Peace Support Operations as needs arise, allowing a quick response to relevant security developments on the African continent.

www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/european-peace-facility-0_en

Youth & Employment

28-Online: The third edition of the UfM Med4Jobs Stakeholders' Dialogue takes place, with a focus on Youth and their role in creating jobs and stimulating growth through entrepreneurship in the Digital Age, in the spirit of the European Year of Youth 2022. The Dialogue will bring together representatives from a broad spectrum of partners and stakeholders, as well as successful youth entrepreneurs, in order to discuss their respective experiences, share lessons learned and conceive actions for the future, producing an Outcome Document of Recommendations that should guide future efforts.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/fr/event/med4jobs-stakeholders-2022/>

May 2022

Syria

9/10-Brussels: The European Union hosts the sixth Brussels Conference on "Supporting the future of Syria and the region," in an effort to ensure continued international support for Syrian refugees and their host communities. Participants include EU institutions and Member States, the broadest possible range of the international community, regional and international organizations and both local and international NGOs and representatives of civil society organizations. The international community pledge close to €6.4 billion for 2022 and beyond during the conference.

https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/syria-eu-hold-9-10-may-brussels-vi-conference-continued-support-syrian-people-2022-05-05_en

Green Transition

9-London: EBRD promotes green energy transition in Egypt. EBRD agrees to lend up to US\$ 4.8 million to finance

investments in green energy transition projects of industrial and energy operations. The projects include one of the first private-to-private energy generation projects in Egypt, aimed at promoting resource consumption efficiency.

<https://www.ebrd.com/news/2022/ebrd-promotes-green-energy-transition-in-egypt.html>

Investments

11-Gaza City: The European Union and the EIB announce €60 million in business investment in Gaza to help with its economic recovery and reconstruction efforts. EIB and EU representatives confirm the first dedicated financial support package for Gaza, to help Gazan companies recover from several recent crises, including Covid-19, expand and create jobs, as part of the biggest credit facility of this size ever offered by the EIB to a Palestinian public institution.

www.eib.org/en/press/all/2022-226-the-european-union-and-the-eib-announce-eur-60-million-business-investment-in-gaza-helping-with-its-economic-recovery-and-reconstruction-efforts

EIB

15-Ramallah: The EIB opens an office for the West Bank and Gaza. This new dedicated local presence will enhance technical and financial support for private and public investment and will be located within the European Union Representation to the West Bank and Gaza in Jerusalem.

www.eib.org/en/press/all/2022-232-eib-opens-office-for-the-west-bank-and-gaza-backs-eur-215-million-palestinian-business-financing-with-the-european-union-and-unveils-new-public-health-cooperation-with-the-world-health-organisation

Gender

16/19-Cairo: The EIB and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) hosted the 2022 Global Gender Summit of the Multilateral Development Banks (MDB) Working Group on Gender (WGG). Supported by a group of 11 Multilateral Development Banks, the summit provided a platform for experts, policymakers and development practition-

ers, to discuss concrete ways to advance gender equality, particularly with regards to employment and the care economy; digitalization; and climate action.

www.eib.org/en/press/news/2022-mdb-global-gender-summit-advancing-gender-equality-for-a-more-resilient-future

Employment

17/18-Marrakech: The fifth Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial on Employment and Labour focuses on "Employment and employability of the most vulnerable, especially among youth and women." UfM member states discuss the most pressing labour market challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean region, in particular how to ensure an inclusive, green, digital and sustainable recovery for all, and particularly for the most vulnerable. Ministers reiterate their commitment to promote an economy that works for people through employment and social policies that respond to youth and gender-specific issues. The ministers also emphasize the important role of women's economic empowerment, with women as active drivers for the economic recovery from the Covid-19 crisis.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ministerial-meeting-employment-2022/>

Employment

18-Marrakech: On the occasion of the UfM Ministerial on Employment meeting, the EU launches the regional Team Europe Initiative (TEI) "Jobs through Trade and Investment." This initiative will contribute to the implementation of the new agenda for the Mediterranean and its Economic and Investment Plan. It will mobilize around €2.8 billion to promote innovative approaches for employment creation in the southern and eastern Mediterranean, by boosting sustainable trade and investment; vocational training and skills; and inclusive entrepreneurship.

<https://south.euneighbours.eu/news/launch-regional-team-europe-initiative-jobs-through-trade-and/>

Employment

18-Marrakech: The UfM launches a regional Jobs, Trade and Investment hub

to support innovative employment-promoting initiatives in the region, on the occasion of the UfM Ministerial on Employment meeting. The hub, financed by Germany and Spain, with a budget of €11 million, will promote employment opportunities, finance projects on the ground and provide technical assistance to UfM countries to promote South-South trade and sustainable investment in the region. It will also support and complement the objectives of the new Team Europe initiative.
<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-launches-regional-hub-jobs-trade-investment/>

Higher Education

19-Barcelona: The UfM organizes a Regional Dialogue Meeting in the framework of the 3rd UNESCO World Higher Education Conference. The meeting is an opportunity for qualified exchanges between representatives from Ministries of Higher Education of the UfM member states, the European Commission and key regional partner organizations and relevant academic stakeholders.
<https://ufmsecretariat.org/towards-renewed-strategic-agenda-cooperation-her/>

Technology

24-Tunisia: The INTECMED project: Incubators for Innovation and Technology Transfer in the Mediterranean announce the inauguration of the Innovation and Technology Transfer Incubator in Tunisia. The objective of launching this incubator is to support technology transfer and the commercialization of research results, by encouraging and supporting innovative business plans. This action will have a significant economic and social impact, contributing to the creation of an environment conducive to entrepreneurship, innovation and employment.
www.enicbcmec.eu/projects/intecmed

Cultural Industries

25-Online: The CREAT4MED project opens the CREAT4MED Training Academy on entrepreneurship in the cultural and creative industries (CCI) welcoming more than 130 aspiring entrepreneurs out of the 230 successful applicants selected from six countries

across the Mediterranean region. The Training Academy will cover key aspects of creating and launching a successful CCI business, including ideation and prototyping, financial and legal aspects, and marketing.
<https://creativemediterranean.org/>

Circular Economy

26-Cairo: Under the European Union-funded SwitchMed/MED TEST III project, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) launches two pilot projects on circular textile production in Egypt. UNIDO explores the potential for developing a value chain that can better valorize fibres from pre-consumer and post-industrial textile waste in Egypt and has identified two pilot projects that will demonstrate how to modernize recycling capacity and stimulate the creation of quality textile waste collection.
<https://switchmed.eu/news/event-cairo-circular-textile/>

Logistics

31-Barcelona: The MedaLogistics Week, which is held in the framework of SIL Barcelona, is a major meeting point for the entire logistics and transport sector in the Mediterranean region organized by the Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME). The event convenes international experts from the industry's leading sectors, including logistics, maritime, transport and infrastructure. Together, they exchange views on how to enhance the Mediterranean as a heavyweight hub for trade and logistics on a global scale.
www.ascame.org/meda-logistic-transport-summit/

June 2022

Syria

4-Brussels: The Council of Europe extends the EU's restrictive measures against the Syrian regime for an additional year, until 1 June 2023, in light of its continued repression of the civilian population in the country. The Council also removes three people from the list, which now includes 289 people targeted by both an assets freeze and a

travel ban, and 70 entities subject to an assets freeze.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/05/31/syria-council-extends-sanctions-against-the-regime-for-another-year/>

Energy

8/9-Sweimeh: The MENA Europe Future Energy Dialogue (MEFED) takes place in Jordan. MEFED aims to deepen energy cooperation between the MENA region and Europe and is a leading forum for key stakeholders of the energy sector in both regions. The conference gives representatives of governments, industry, academia and civil society the opportunity to share their experiences and ideas on a reliable, affordable and sustainable energy system.
<https://mena-europe-energy.org/about-mefed/>

Economy

9-Online: The EBRD, EIB and World Bank launch a new joint report on the MENA economy. The report "Unlocking Sustainable Private-Sector Growth in the Middle East and North Africa" analyses constraints on productivity growth and limited accumulation of factors of production in the MENA private sector. The report highlights that a dynamic private sector is key for the economies of the region to grow out of their currently high debt levels, and sustainable growth in the region's private sector requires reforms that facilitate innovation, the adoption of digital technologies and investments in human capital.
www.ebrd.com/news/2022/ebrd-eib-and-world-bank-launch-new-report-on-menas-economy-.html

Cooperation

18/19-Alicante: The regional conference of the South Programme "Building a Common Legal Space: A Decade of Joint Action in the Southern Mediterranean Region" is held at Casa Mediterráneo, within the framework of the South Programme IV. The programme "Regional Support to Reinforce Human rights, Rule of Law and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean" (South Programme IV) is a joint initiative between the European Union and the Council of

Europe. The conference analyses the lessons learned from a decade of tripartite cooperation between the European Union, the Council of Europe and programme beneficiaries in the region, and serves as a platform to exchange ideas on challenges and prospects for continued joint action in the next phase of the South Programme.

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

Innovation

22-Tunis: The final event of THE NEXT SOCIETY project is held in Tunis to share THE NEXT SOCIETY legacy after five years of collaboration on innovation in the Euro-Mediterranean region. THE NEXT SOCIETY is an open community of changemakers, entrepreneurs, investors, corporates, NGOs, public and private innovation, research and economic development hubs from Europe and seven Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

www.thenextsociety.co/next-society-final-meeting.

Blue Finance

22-Barcelona: The UfM Blue Finance Conference takes place at the World Trade Center in Barcelona. The goal of the Conference is to encourage investments in and funding of Sustainable Blue Economy projects and initiatives in the Mediterranean region, especially in the southern countries. The conference brings together financial institutions, banks, private investors and UfM country and industry representatives to exchange information on funding, and discuss the criteria and viability of projects/initiatives and the enablers and conditions which may help attract investments.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-blue-finance-conference/>

Terrorism

22/23-Tunis: The Council of Europe organizes a regional conference entitled "Countering terrorism and violent extremism: towards a human-rights coordinated approach." The conference brings together representatives and experts from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. The confer-

ence is organized in the framework of the South Programme IV. The programme "Regional Support to Reinforce Human rights, Rule of Law and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean" (South Programme IV) is a joint initiative between the European Union and the Council of Europe.

<https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/south-programme/-/countering-terrorism-and-violent-extremism-towards-a-human-rights-coordinated-approach-in-the-southern-mediterranean-region>

Energy

23-Marrakech: The Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG) holds its 2nd Presidents' workshop. Representatives from energy regulatory authorities from more than 20 countries of the Mediterranean region address energy challenges in the context of international crises. The General Assembly takes stock of the progress made in the 2022 deliverables, the planned cooperation initiatives with partners and exchanges on the three-year strategy for 2023-2025, which will match the renewed financial support of the European Union.

www.medreg-regulators.org/

Research and Innovation

27-Online: Research and Innovation Ministers from the 42 countries of the UfM meet for the first time to discuss ways to promote scientific cooperation on climate change, renewable energy and health. Ministers endorsed a ministerial declaration that seeks to exploit the potential of research and innovation to increase the resilience of the Euro-Mediterranean region against environmental, food security and socioeconomic challenges, as well as to promote science diplomacy.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/UfM-Ministerial-Declaration-RI-EN-270622.pdf>

July 2022

Innovation

4-Online: The Switchers Open Eco-Innovation Platform is launched. The platform is a virtual space for enabling connections between green busi-

nesses and innovative solutions. The platform has been developed within the framework of SwitchMed, a programme funded by the European Union. The platform is free and easy to use. It enables the matching between seekers of green and circular business solutions (companies and public institutions) with providers (start-ups/entrepreneurs), using an open innovation approach.

<https://switchmed.eu/news/switchers-open-eco-innovation-platform-manual/>

Ports

7/8-Civitavecchia: The MEDports Association organizes its annual forum under the title "The Challenge of Digitalisation in the Mediterranean." The gathering examines the current state of digitalization in the Mediterranean, its challenges and key success factors. It provides a valuable opportunity to exchange knowledge and best practices among representatives of international institutions, experts of maritime transport and port activities, and leading port members, in order to assist Mediterranean ports in building a resilient and progressive maritime sector through the use of digitalization.

<https://medports.org/>

Women Inclusion

15-Online: The first 29 women start their fellowship programme in the field of women's inclusion in political and peace processes in the Middle East and North Africa region. The Supporting Arab Women at the Table (SAWT) regional fellowship programme has brought together 29 women advocates of gender inclusive peace and security policies from Libya, Yemen, Syria, Palestine and Iraq. The SAWT project (funded by the European Union and led by the Arab Reform Initiative) seeks to quantitatively and qualitatively increase women's meaningful inclusion in political and peace processes in the MENA region.

www.arab-reform.net/project/supporting-arab-women-at-the-table-sawt-arab-women-as-political-actors/

Trade & Investments

20-Online: The UfM Regional Platform on Trade and Investment holds a fol-

low-up meeting on the planned work to cover the three main pillars of Sustainable Trade, Sustainable Investment and Regional Integration. Participants discuss issues such as the impact of the war in Ukraine on trade, the critical food security situation or the resilience of value chains.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-regional-platform-trade-investment-2022/>

Research

22/21-Barcelona: The UFM and UNIDO organizes the Women Business Forum (WBF), an annual regional platform that offers women-owned and women-led businesses a unique opportunity to take their business to the next level by learning from successful and innovative business models, and by building business connections with international business leaders, policymakers and experts from the world's leading companies. This edition provides the opportunity to discuss gender-smart financing to empower women as entrepreneurs, traders, workers and professionals, as well as identify financial inequalities that remain gender-based. It also addresses the models and good practices that should be disseminated to ensure that women-led businesses can be an engine for growth and job opportunities for women and girls in the MENA region.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/event/women-business-forum-2022/>

Lebanon

26-Brussels: The Council of the European Union adopts a decision to extend the framework for targeted restrictive measures to address the situation in Lebanon for another year, until 31 July 2023. This framework, originally adopted on 30 July 2021, provides for the possibility of imposing sanctions against people and entities who are responsible for undermining democracy or the rule of law in Lebanon.

www.consilium.europa.eu/

Cooperation

28-Athens: The ENI CBC Med Programme holds the meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee, its decision-making body. The meeting brings together national delegations from thirteen countries and representatives of

the European Commission. The participants discuss the state of implementation of the 80 projects underway, tackling strategic issues such as economic development, innovation, social inclusion and the fight against climate change. The Joint Monitoring Committee approves the proposals for the annual activity, communication and financial plans.

www.enicbcmec.eu/euro-mediterranean-cooperation-representatives-13-countries-met-athens-review-progress-eni-cbc-med

August 2022

Health

1-London: The EBRD is investing €19.2 million in a certified green bond issue of €95 million equivalent by the Office National des Chemins de Fer du Maroc (ONCF), the Moroccan national railway operator, to refinance debt used to build an electrified high-speed rail line in the country. This first cooperation between the EBRD and ONCF is a significant milestone, supporting Morocco's first green bond in the infrastructure and building sector. This will act as a platform for further cooperation on green initiatives.

www.ebrd.com/news/2022/ebrd-invests-in-first-green-infrastructure-bond-in-morocco.html

EU-Palestine

11-Jerusalem: The European Union provides €2.6 million to farmers in the Gaza Strip in support of the Palestinian Authority's programme "Private Sector Reconstruction Gaza -Agriculture." The EU contribution of €2.6 million targets 113 additional farmers and agro-businesses to relaunch, repair or replace damaged businesses affected by the conflict. It covers a wide range of activities, including the acquisition of agricultural supplies, rehabilitation of land and water wells and other small infrastructure works, while incorporating smart and adaptive agriculture techniques.

www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip/european-union-17_en?s=206

Grain Sector

24-London: The EBRD signs a sovereign guaranteed loan for €150.5 million to the Office des Cereales (ODC), a Tunisian state-owned company, to fund imports of soft wheat, durum wheat and barley, representing up to 15 percent of Tunisia's annual consumption needs. The war on Ukraine has severely impacted the country's ability to export grains and has led to disruptions in the global grain supply and hikes in global soft commodity prices, which directly impact the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries – some of which are the world's largest importers of wheat. BRD, ODC and Tunisian authorities expect to develop a roadmap to improve grain sector efficiency and address some structural weaknesses.

www.ebrd.com/news/2022/ebrd-contributes-to-tunisia-efforts-to-grain-sector-reform.html

Palestine

31-Gaza: The European Union, together with European partners, the Ministry of National Economy and Palestine Monetary Authority hold an event at the Gaza Chamber of Commerce and Industry promoting Team Europe investments in Palestine, calling for fundamental political and economic changes for the benefit of the Gazan people. The conference in Gaza focuses on Team Europe's support to Gazan businesses, with a view to strengthening economic recovery and reconstruction efforts in the Strip. In the margins of the conference, Team Europe partners visited businesses that suffered damages following several rounds of hostilities in recent years and received European financial support for the recovery of their economic activities.

www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip/eu-partners-and-businesses_en?s=206

September 2022

Justice

13/15-Brussels: EuroMed Justice, the Belgian Judicial Training Institute and the Romanian National Institute of Magistracy co-host a round table on the

development of the curricula on international judicial cooperation in criminal matters in South Partner Countries and European Union Member States. The meeting addresses the status of the development and implementation of curricula on cross-Mediterranean judicial cooperation in criminal matters. Representatives from judicial schools, judicial councils, ministries of justice and prosecution offices from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Spain attend the event.

www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/eu-and-south-partner-countries-discuss-curricula-cross-mediterranean-judicial-cooperation

Innovation

14/15-Alexandria: The EMPHASIS project selects 24 Mediterranean SMEs to receive open innovation support services and help in bringing their business ideas to life. The selected SMEs will receive significant innovation support services to address sustainability challenges and turn them into economic possibilities through external cross-border partnerships at the Euromed level. EMPHASIS aims to co-create a Euromed Open Innovation ecosystem to enable information to cross Mediterranean boundaries and be translated into business concepts and marketable items.

www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/emphasise

Tourism

27-Palermo: The RESTART MED! project celebrates World Tourism Day with the event "Better policies to increase sustainability in Mediterranean tourism," which discusses and proposes policies for the sound development of sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean area, considered to be a single tourism destination with common challenges. The RESTART MED! (REvitalization of Sustainable Tourism Across Regions in The MEDiterranean) is a project co-funded by the EU through the ENI CBC MED Programme, and it is implemented by six partners in Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Spain and Tunisia.

www.enicbcmed.eu/restart-med-project-organises-sustainable-tourism-summit-world-tourism-day-0

Economic Prospects

28-London: The EBRD forecasts that economic growth in the southern and eastern Mediterranean region will slow from 6% in 2021 to 2.9% in 2022, according to the Bank's latest Regional Economic Prospects report. The impact on the region of the war on Ukraine is being felt through higher consumer prices for oil and food, with significant spillovers for public budgets, food security and the medium-term drivers of growth. Higher growth of 4.7 % is forecast for 2023 as the recovery gathers pace in most of the economies and as economic and governance reforms advance throughout the region, boosting the recovery.

www.ebrd.com/news/2022/growth-in-southern-and-eastern-mediterranean-to-slow-to-29-per-cent-in-2022.html

Culture & Youth

28-Barcelona: The international jury of the youth literary contest "A Sea of Words" announces the 10 best stories of its 15th edition, which this year received 45 short stories by youth from 25 different Euro-Mediterranean countries. The contest "A Sea of Words" is co-organized yearly by the IEMed and the Anna Lindh Foundation. This year's edition is devoted to the role of youth in pushing forward gender equality. The 10 award-winning authors will be invited to take part in several activities in Barcelona.

<https://www.iemed.org/sea-of-words-edition/a-sea-of-words-the-voice-of-youths-2022/>

Urbanization & Ports

28/29-Barcelona: The UfM Conference on "Sustainable Urbanisation through Port City Transformation" provides an opportunity for representatives of Mediterranean ports and adjacent cities, government representatives and other key regional and international stakeholders to discuss sustainable urbanization through port city transformation. The Conference launches a process of annual gatherings of Ports and Port Cities, as agreed in the UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development. This work is guided by the UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040 and it will con-

tribute to the implementation of its principles and actions.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/sustainable-urbanisation-through-port-city-transformation/>

October 2022

EU-Southern Neighbourhood

4-Online: In the framework of the ESCWA Conference "Arab SMEs Summit: Opportunities Beyond Borders," the UfM and the Jordan Higher Council for Science and Technology hold the "UfM Forum on Innovation and Green Careers to Empower Mediterranean Youth: The Triple Helix in Action." Participants in the event (supported by GIZ) discuss government-academia-business cooperation; innovation and the green transition and foster innovation, skills and employability.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/event/ufm-forum-on-green-innovation/>

MSMEs

6/7-Nicosia: In the margins of the 9th Environment for Europe conference, the UfM organizes a two-day conference on "Enhancing MSMEs' resilience in the face of future shocks." The event provides an opportunity for sharing best practices and innovative ideas on how to make MSMEs more resilient in the face of future shocks in a rapidly changing landscape. It will build upon the lessons learned from the unprecedented pandemic crisis, in terms of its impact on MSMEs and the policy measures that have been taken to address it.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/event/conference-enhancing-msmes-resilience/>

Gender

11/12-Jordan: The EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI) holds the Regional Forum on Equality in Education in the Southern Mediterranean. This event is organized in the framework of the EU-funded regional programme "Combating Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) in the Southern Mediterranean Region." It gathers over 120 participants from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. Participants exchange best practices and challenges

and discuss strategies to achieve more inclusive education in terms of equality and representation.

www.efi-ife.org/en/extra/hub/events?modal_page=event-detail&modal_detail_id=6583-regional-forum-on-equality-in-education-in-the-southern-mediterranean

Justice

11/13-The Hague: The 4th EuroMed Forum of Prosecutors General brings together high-level public prosecution officials from all European Union Member States as well as from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and, for the first time, Libya. The forum participants discuss the 2022-2025 Cross-Mediterranean Strategy, with the aim of deepening collaboration and developing shared perspectives to fight cross-border crime. The Forum was preceded by a meeting of CrimEx, the expert group in judicial criminal matters of the EuroMed Justice programme, which provided additional input to the discussion.

<https://euromedjustice.eu/activities/special-crimex-4rd-euromed-forum-of-prosecutors-general/>

UfM

13-Dead Sea: The UfM Senior Officials meet in Jordan for the country's 10th anniversary as part of the UfM Co-Presidency. The Senior Officials meeting focuses on the preparations of the upcoming 7th UfM Regional Forum, which will take place in November. The European Union-Southern Neighbourhood Ministerial Meeting will also take place in Barcelona on the same date, back-to-back with the UfM Regional Forum. Furthermore, Senior Officials agree on holding the first UfM Ministerial Meeting on Higher Education in 2023, as well as the 12th UfM Ministerial Meeting on Trade.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-senior-officials-meet-jordan-10th-anniversary-co-president/>

Social Justice

17-Barcelona: The European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) within the framework of the project "EuroMeSCo Connecting the dots" is launching the survey "Towards more social

justice and inclusiveness in the Mediterranean" to reflect on the social dimension of the New Agenda for the Mediterranean and inclusiveness in southern Mediterranean countries. The survey targets respondents from the EU and southern Mediterranean countries, including policymakers, experts, and civil society representatives, to put forward priorities related to cooperation between the EU and SMCs on these social aspects, paving the way for an evidence-driven approach for an inclusive debate on the New Agenda for the Mediterranean and its different components.

www.iemed.org/euromed-survey/towards-sustainable-and-mutually-beneficial-migration-partnerships-in-the-south-mediterranean/

Water

17-Cairo: A EU-UfM High Level Conference on strengthening water finance and investment policies under climate change takes place as a prelude to COP-27. As water is the sector most heavily hit by climate change in the Mediterranean region, governments need to address some fundamental questions on finance to ensure water security. The conference aims to draft a high-level action plan that will be further discussed at COP-27 and the 2023 UN Water Conference.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/mediterranean-water-sector/>

Women

26-Madrid: The Ministers in charge of gender equality from the 42 countries of the UfM meet at the 5th UfM Ministerial Meeting on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society. UfM Member States adopt a declaration with concrete and operational recommendations, actions and measures focused on four priority areas. These include; enhancing legal frameworks; improving women's access to leadership in public life and decision-making; raising women's participation in economic life and combating and preventing violence against women and girls. The conference gathers over 100 high-level representatives and international experts to discuss operational ways to implement these mandates in the

face of the current sanitary, food and energy crises.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-ministerial-strengthen-role-women-in-society-2022/>

November 2022

Statistics

1/4-Istanbul: MEDSTAT V organizes a training course "Management of teams and projects" for working group leaders. The participants are coordinators of working groups from Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. The training allows participants to strengthen their leadership competencies. Coordinators discuss project management procedures and exchange knowledge and experiences on practical tools for the effective management of groups in a multilingual and multicultural environment. MEDSTAT V is the regional statistical programme in the Southern Neighbourhood countries, funded by DG NEAR and managed by Eurostat.

<https://south.euneighbours.eu/project/medstat-v-euro-mediterranean-statistical-cooperation/>

Environment

3-Online: The UfM Task Force on Environment gathers country representatives and regional stakeholders to jointly exchange on key issues of relevance for the Mediterranean region. During the meeting, and as agreed in the 2nd UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, links between the international, regional and national dimension are highlighted, together with the ongoing actions in support of the priorities agreed by countries in the 2030 Greener Med Agenda.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/event/ufm-task-force-on-environment/>

Trade & Investment

4-Istanbul: The UfM Secretariat and the German Development Cooperation co-organizes the fourth UfM Trade and Investment Forum, "Regional trade integration and investment promotion for a green transition in the Mediterranean." The 150 participants discuss the current regional economic dynamics in

a changing global context with a focus on three interrelated thematics, namely the green transition, regional value chains and hedging against global disruptions.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/4th-ufm-trade-investment-forum-2022/>

Climate Change

6/20-Sharm El-Sheik: The 27th edition of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) hosts a Mediterranean Pavilion. The initiative is conceived by the UfM to highlight both the urgent challenges the Mediterranean is currently facing, and the innovative solutions already being developed, raising awareness on a region overlooked in climate negotiations. The Mediterranean Pavilion hosts more than 60 events and working meetings, and provides an exceptional opportunity for the region to talk and act as one. The Mediterranean Pavilion has the independent network of MedECC as a scientific advisory council for its activities.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/mediterraneanpavilion/>

Circular Economy

9/10-Rimini: SwitchMed Connect 2022 is held within the framework of Ecomondo. This is the flagship event of the EU-funded SwitchMed initiative, and aims at achieving a circular economy in the southern Mediterranean. SwitchMed Connect gathers Mediterranean stakeholders to build synergies, exchange knowledge and scale up environmental and social innovations. It hosts leading start-ups and entrepreneurs, industry agents, initiatives, change agents, policy and financial institutions, with a focus on applying productive, circular and sharing economies in the Mediterranean.

<https://switchmed.eu/news/switchmed-connect-2022-summary/>

EU-Tunisia

14-Tunis: The Ambassador of the EU in Tunisia, Marcus Cornaro, and the Tunisian Minister of Economy and Planning, Mister Samir Saïed, sign a programme worth €100 million in support of Tunisia. This programme, implemented by the European Union in the con-

text of the Covid-19 pandemic in Tunisia, aims to bolster efforts to restart the economy and consolidate progress made in distributing social support to people and businesses in need. The signature of the programme paves the way for an initial payment of €40 million, bringing the total EU funding for Tunisia in 2022 to €550 million (including grants and loans).

www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/tunisia/union-europ%C3%A9enne-et-la-tunisie-signent-un-programme-de-100-millions-d%E2%80%99euros-en_en?s=126

Transport

15-Brussels: The final conference of the EUMedRail project takes place in Brussels, organized by the EU Agency for Railways. The EUMedRail team presents the achievements and results of the technical assistance provided in 2022. The UfM introduces the Regional Transport Action Plan for 2021-2027 focused on rail actions. EU-MedRail delegations take the floor to present the project outcomes in their respective countries and their railway strategies and investment plans for the following years.

www.era.europa.eu/content/eumedrail-conference

UfM

23/24-Barcelona: The 7th UfM Regional Forum takes place in Barcelona. During the meeting, the UfM Foreign Affairs Ministers agree on the need to further intensify regional cooperation and integration to face high unemployment rates, the climate emergency and imbalanced growth in a disintegrated region—all of which has been worsened by the war in Ukraine. UfM Foreign Affairs Ministers endorse a ministerial declaration on the accession of North Macedonia to the Union for the Mediterranean and welcome the new member state to the organization. Ministers also approve the launch of the regional initiative, “Mediterranean Capitals of Culture.” The Forum also hosts a Euro-Mediterranean youth meeting organized by the UfM Secretariat and the Anna Lindh Foundation.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/7th-regional-forum/>

Day of the Mediterranean

28-Regional: The Day of the Mediterranean is celebrated to recognize Mediterranean culture, cooperation and embrace the region’s rich diversity. A multitude of events and initiatives, focused on music, are held across the region to celebrate this second edition. The Day of the Mediterranean aims to foster a common Mediterranean identity and also provides unique momentum every year to increase the visibility of a positive Mediterranean agenda. The UfM launches its online campaign, “The Mediterranean, a journey through the senses,” calling all citizens to reflect on their shared identity and origins and what unites them as a Mediterranean people.

<https://mediterraneanday.com/>

Anna Lindh Foundation

28-Regional: Within the framework of Mediterranean Day, the Anna Lindh Foundation coordinates a unique celebration of the Mediterranean and its diversity at the community level with the participation of civil society organizations from 25 Euromed countries which, in turn, organize 36 free community-based musical performances in tandem with local administrations, which take place simultaneously in the different countries on the 28 November 2022. The Foundation also launches a regional campaign in coordination with award-winning civil society organizations to contribute to creating a unique momentum to embrace the diversity of the region and promote intercultural exchanges.

www.annalindhfoundation.org/calls/celebrating-the-mediterranean

Cultural Industry

28/29– Barcelona/Online: The CREAT4MED Annual Conference, “Unleashing the full potential of the cultural and creative industries in the Mediterranean,” aims to build on the progress achieved so far, strengthen links between identified stakeholders and fortify the foundations of a solid CCI Med Hub to create a productive and sustainable enabling environment for budding cultural and creative entrepreneurs. CREAT4MED is an EU-funded project that aims to strengthen

businesses and entrepreneurship in the cultural and creative industries in the EU's Southern Neighbourhood, with a particular focus on young people and women.

<https://creativemediterranean.org/creact4med-annual-conference-2022/>

Trade & Investments

30-Brussels: The Annual Conference Closing Event of the EuroMeSCo Network takes place in Brussels. The event is hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). The Event serves as a wrap-up for the four previous country events of the Annual Conference, which took place in Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia and Egypt under the umbrella of the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2022 "Towards more Social Justice and Inclusiveness in the Mediterranean." Within the framework of the Conference, the 2022 edition of the EuroMeSCo Multistakeholder Dialogue Platforms takes place, focused on Combating Corruption and Fostering Accountability.

www.euromesco.net/event/closing-event-euromesco-annual-conference-brussels/

December 2022

Migration

2-Online: The 31 member organizations of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), issue a Call to Action, urging countries, in the context of increasing crises, to put in place effective responses and increase cooperation to combat this crime. The co-chairs of the ICAT, UNODC and ICMPD take the initiative to develop, in cooperation with all member organizations, the 13-point Call to Action, calling for focused action to avoid humanitarian catastrophes and their far-reaching consequences.

https://icat.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd1461/files/publications/icat_call_to_action.pdf

Cooperation

12-Brussels: The European Commission has approved the Interreg VI-B NEXT "Mediterranean Sea Basin"

(NEXT MED) transnational cooperation programme, involving 15 countries, which will receive €253 million in EU funding. Interreg NEXT MED aims to contribute to smart, sustainable and fair development across the Mediterranean Basin by supporting balanced, long-lasting and far-reaching cooperation and multilevel governance. The programme mission is to finance cooperation projects that address joint socioeconomic, environmental and governance challenges at Mediterranean level.

www.enicbcmmed.eu/european-commission-approves-interreg-next-med-programme-eu253-million-boost-transnational

Energy & Construction

12-Online: Med-EcoSuRe launches an online platform (Med Bex.Live) for knowledge transfer on the energy renovation of university buildings in the Mediterranean. The online platform allows rapprochement and dialogue to take place between all actors concerned by the energy efficiency of university buildings and facilitates cooperation and co-creation in the Living Lab community. The platform ensures the gathering of information among partners, the transfer of knowledge and best practices and cooperation and co-creation among the Living Lab stakeholders for research purposes.

www.enicbcmmed.eu/med-ecosure-launches-online-platform-knowledge-transfer-energy-renovation-buildings-mediterranean

Ports

12-London: The EBRD provides €100 million in additional loan financing for the construction of the Nador West Med port in Morocco's Oriental region. The loan is a new, second tranche under a €200 million EBRD loan agreement signed in 2015. The Nador West Med port is part of a wider development plan for the Oriental region and will contribute directly to a reduction in regional disparities and support the area's economic development. It will also improve regional access to infrastructure.

www.ebrd.com/news/2022/ebird-lends-further-support-to-moroccan-nador-west-med-port.html

Science Diplomacy

12/14-Online: The UfM and Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) organizes the webinar series "Science Diplomacy for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region," which promotes the recently endorsed UfM Agendas on Research and Innovation as a tool for scientific cooperation in the Mediterranean. Science Diplomacy has received strong impetus in recent years, and is closely connected with cultural and economic diplomacy.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/webinar-science-diplomacy-and-sustainability/>

Migration

13/14-Rabat: The 6th Ministerial Conference of the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (Rabat Process) takes place in Cadiz. Ministers and high-level officials of the Rabat Process partner countries adopt a new multi-annual cooperation programme in Cadiz – the Political Declaration and Cadiz Action Plan 2023-2027. This non-binding programme will guide the Dialogue and its partner countries during the next five years. The potential of bilateral and multilateral cooperation is highlighted as a major opportunity, and participants emphasize the importance of solidarity and shared responsibility.

www.icmpd.org/news/rabat-process-ministerial-conference-adopted-new-action-plan-on-migration-and-development

Construction

16-Online: The ENI CBC Med BEEP project comes to an end after a 40-month journey. One of its main outcomes has been the development of a guideline on the energy and environmental improvement of historic public buildings using the "Heritage Building Information Modelling (HBIM)" methodology and simulation-based approach. The guideline presents a workflow, from building analysis to the design, simulation and evaluation of interventions, and can be applied by building owners and managers and be of use to all professionals involved in the process. It aims to enhance the capacity of local public administrations and professionals to design and carry

out sensitive retrofit interventions on historic public buildings, through a multidisciplinary and integrated digital approach.

www.enicbmed.eu/beep-guide-energy-renovation-heritage-buildings

Trade & Investments

19-Online: The Member States of the UfM hold the fourth meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Trade and Investment to discuss priority areas ahead of the 12th Ministerial Meeting of UfM Trade Ministers in 2023. During the

meeting, participants discuss priorities under three main headline topics of Sustainable Trade, Sustainable Investment and Regional Integration.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/4th-regional-platform-trade-investment/>

Water

19-Amman: Jordan and EIB sign a €200 million loan for the Aqaba Amman Water Desalination and Conveyance Project (AAWDCP), the first confirmed financing for Jordan's largest ever water investment project. This financing for

the climate adaptation scheme will contribute to providing part of the government of Jordan's contribution to the project, amounting to US\$352 million. The AAWDCP will supply an additional 300 million cubic metres of water each year after desalination and transfer it from Aqaba to the Jordanian capital and all other provinces.

www.eib.org/en/press/all/2022-546-jordan-and-european-investment-bank-sign-eur-200-million-loan-for-aqaba-amman-water-desalination-and-conveyance-project