

## PACT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN – SPRING 2026

### **Introductory note: preparation and regular update of the Action Plan**

The EU Member States called for a swift and efficient implementation of the Pact for the Mediterranean (the ‘Pact’) through FAC<sup>1</sup> and EUCCO<sup>2</sup> conclusions, in a spirit of co-creation, co-ownership, mutual interest and joint responsibility. The Pact was officially launched on 28 November 2025 in Barcelona in the presence of both EU Member States and the ten southern Mediterranean partners<sup>3</sup>. As planned, progress in its implementation is being presented and tracked in a **dedicated Action Plan**, which specifies the details of mature actions, specific deliverables, participating countries, stakeholders and funding for each initiative, as appropriate.

**The Action Plan will be a living, rolling document.** It will be **updated twice a year**, in line with the European Commission’s programming cycle and ahead of each meeting of the Joint Group at Senior Officials’ Level. **Prior to its presentation to the Joint Group at Senior Officials’ Level, the Action plan will be shared and discussed with relevant Council Working Parties, notably, the Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party (MaMa), as well as with the Heads of Mission of the southern Mediterranean partner countries in Brussels.** A **written update on the implementation of the Pact** drawn up by the European Commission and the EEAS will be submitted once a year in a timely manner for discussion in the MaMa Working Party, and with the Heads of Mission of the Southern Neighbourhood partner countries before the Joint Group at Senior Officials level. This will serve as an input for the Council’s political guidance at all relevant levels, including by the Foreign Affairs Council as required, on the priorities of the Action Plan for the following period and as input for the subsequent EU-Southern Neighbourhood Ministerial meeting.

The regular iterations of the Action Plan will **include only those initiatives and actions that are sufficiently mature to be launched for implementation in the course of the year**, while striving to maintain a geographical balance as well as a balance across the three pillars of the Pact. Amid an increasingly volatile geopolitical and economic landscape, compounded by persistent instability, the Pact will aim to remain relevant vis-à-vis current developments in the region, allowing for more focused work depending on the strategic and operational necessities of the EU and its southern Mediterranean Partners.

Their implementation will be supported with dedicated communication activities to ensure high visibility, applying comprehensively both online and offline tools and targeting all relevant audiences.

The Action Plan **is therefore not a new political document for formal adoption, but an operational, technical tool** for monitoring progress in the implementation of the Pact, promoting scalability and synergies. **It does not alter the existing adoption procedures for**

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<sup>1</sup> Council conclusions on the Pact for the Mediterranean – One Sea, One Pact, One Future (20 November 2025) - [pdf](#)

<sup>2</sup> European Council conclusions, 18 December 2025

<sup>3</sup> Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine\*, Syria and Tunisia.

\*This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

**each initiative / action supported with EU funding.** They will continue to be **carried out through relevant existing programming and adoption procedures** under the applicable multi-annual financial framework; cooperation in the field of security and defence will take place in accordance with the existing EU frameworks. Similarly, **initiatives and actions led by EU Member States or southern Mediterranean partners – and financed through their own resources** - will be implemented in accordance with the respective **national procedures and processes.**

Each ‘box’ includes the following sections:

- **Title:** corresponds to the wording adopted in the joint communication on the Pact for the Mediterranean. In some cases, the title mirrors only related sub-actions concerned by implementation (e.g. StartUp4Med). When no title is included in the box, the implementation relates to the initiative as a whole (e.g. T-MED).
- **Description of the action:** provides an overview of the objectives and the activities to be carried out.
- **Main deliverables and indicative timeline:** indicates key outcomes to be delivered over the course of 2026.
- **Funding:** indicates source of EU funding (adopted or indicatively planned), as well as additional sources of funding coming from EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners or – at a later stage - third countries involved under ‘triangular cooperation’.
- **Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:** will include possible modalities of participation into this action; general interest shared by Member States and southern Mediterranean partners in the action as per feedback received from consultations; reference to indicative contributions, including in-kind offers as per feedback received from consultations.
- **Regional and bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:** includes reference to existing EU-funded actions carried out at regional and bilateral level in alignment with this action.
- **Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:** includes reference to the role of the Union for the Mediterranean and other stakeholders in the implementation of this action.

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## PILLAR I - PEOPLE: THE DRIVING FORCE FOR CHANGE, CONNECTIONS AND INNOVATION

### HIGHER EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT OF SKILLS, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

**Establishing a Mediterranean University**, which will be an institution with campuses in the Common Mediterranean Space [...].

**Description of the action:** *The action aims to position the Mediterranean region as a centre of transnational education and research by fostering stronger cooperation among universities and academics from all Mediterranean shores. It will result in the creation of a consortia of universities, coordinated by a Secretariat and will boost educational collaboration throughout the region. It will lead to strengthened university networks, the development of joint programmes and joint micro-credentials, and enhanced academic connections, promoting the mobility of students, staff, and researchers. Additionally, a feasibility study will explore the establishment over time of a full-fledged transnational institution with campuses on all sides of the Mediterranean.*

#### **Main deliverables and indicative timeline:**

- **Creation of Mediterranean University consortia** supported by a coordinating structure – Q2 2026
- Launch of **feasibility study** – Q3 2026
- Start establishing **joint programmes** by leveraging existing schemes and initiatives – Q3 2026

#### **Funding:**

- EU Funding:
  - COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 30.3.2026 on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Mediterranean University for 2025-2026 (EUR 11 million, NDICI, [Action Document](#))
  - International dimension of Erasmus+ programme, notably Capacity Building in Higher Education (EUR 15.2 million allocated for 2026)
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):

#### **Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- Participation in the EU-funded action will be determined as per [Action Document](#). Possible participation of GCC countries to be encouraged.
- General interest:
  - MS: CY, DE, ES, FR, HR, IT, MT, NL, SI
  - SMPs: DZ, EG, IL, JO, LB, MO, PS, SY, TN
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
  - BE: Academic cooperation projects, Morocco, approx. EUR 9 million
  - DE: projects focused on working with diaspora in TN and MO; DAAD (promotes international academic exchange worldwide, including SN)
- Indicative contributions:
  - CY to organise a conference on whole-system change in sustainability, also focusing on the role of higher education institutions (7–8 May 2026, Filoxenia Center, Nicosia)

- In-kind offers to either provide infrastructure, expertise or technical or academic contributions (CY, DZ, EG, ES, FR, HR, JO, LB, MO, MT, PS, SI, TN, SY)

### **Regional and bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

- EUSEEDS – Enabling and fostering Mediterranean youth employability through dedicated university centres - Interreg NEXT MED, EUR 2.5 million
- Support for the Development of Research and Innovation in Algeria (“IPTICAR”, Twinning), EUR 5 million (AAP 2021)
- Support to University Euro Mediterranean of Fès on Agritech, EUR 800.000, Morocco
- Science diplomacy curriculum developed in partnership with the EU science diplomacy alliance, Jordan

### **Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- **UfM** to support political and diplomatic outreach, including in the context of the upcoming UfM Higher Education Ministerial Meeting (foreseen for Q3 2026) which will set up a UfM Higher Education Platform
- Existing **University networks** (such as EMUNI, Tethys, UNIMED and **Université Euromed de Fès**) will be involved in the implementation, as appropriate, as per [Action Document](#)
- Cooperation with **European Universities alliances** to be explored, including for example through their community of practice ([FOREU4ALL](#)), as appropriate and in line with [Action Document](#)

**Establishing and further developing Innovation and Research Centres**, bringing together universities and the private sector to improve knowledge and technology transfer involving innovators, startups and investors.

**Description of the action:** *The action will foster scientific collaboration, skills development, and competitiveness across the region. It will strengthen innovation by building partnerships between research centres, universities, experts and the private sector while reinforcing links between researchers and the industry. Starting with a dedicated Scalability Strategy, the initiative will replicate and expand the Innovation Fair format (pitching to potential investors, open innovation challenge, incubation opportunities) ensuring that research results evolve into scalable, market-ready solutions. In the longer term, the action will support the creation of a "MED Innovation Platform", a one-stop hub connecting innovators, researchers, entrepreneurs, and investors, and helping bridge the gap between research and market uptake. By promoting research-to-business initiatives, de-risk early-stage investments, the action will also help upskill young talent through a dedicated Deep Tech Transformation Training Scheme.*

**Main deliverables and indicative timeline:**

- Presentation of the **Euro-Mediterranean Scalability Strategy** at Regional Roundtable on the Euro-Mediterranean Scalability Strategy in Cairo – Q2 2026
- **Mediterranea Innovation Fair 2026** – Q4 2026

**Funding:**

- EU Funding:
  - Horizon Europe (Work programme 2026-2027)
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):

**Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- General interest:
  - MS: BG, CY, DE, ES, FR, HR, MT, PL, PT, SI
  - SMPs: DZ, EG, JO, LB, MO, TN
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
  - BE: Global Skills Partnership Soins (GSP Soins) 2024-2027, Morocco, EUR 3.4 million
  - DE: existing work of Merian Center for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb; Regional TEI “Jobs through Trade and Investment”.
  - ES: existing ongoing programmes and the TEI on ‘Jobs through trade and investments’;
  - FR: various bilateral projects (AFD, Morocco)
- Indicative contributions:
  - In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions (BG, CY, DZ, EG, ES, FR, HR, JO, LB, MO, MT, PT, SI, TN)

**Bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

- Support for the Development of Research and Innovation in Algeria (“IPTICAR”, Twinning), EUR 5 million (AAP 2021)

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- PRIMA will be associated in the development of Innovation and Research Centres for 2025-2027
- SWAFY - Science With And For Youth. Tunisia, EUR 9 million
- Participation of Tunisia in Horizon Europe, EUR 5.5 million
- Participation of Egypt in Horizon Europe, EUR 5 million (2025-2027)
- Lebanon Innovate, EUR 3 million
- Innovation as an engine for SMEs competitiveness and economic growth in Lebanon, EUR 15 million
- ESRIM programme – TA component on R&I, EUR 2 million, Morocco
- ESRIM programme – support to mobility in EU member states of “doctorants-moniteurs”, EUR 4.7 million, Morocco
- “Competences pour l’emploi et l’entrepreneuriat”, EUR 78.5 million, Morocco
- SESAME, Jordan, EUR 31 million (since its inception)
- Climate Smart Innovation (CSI) Initiatives under the Multi-donor Agribusiness Program in Palestine, EUR 2,6 million, Palestine

### **Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- **UfM** to be involved through the UfM Platform on Research and Innovation, including UfM Ministerial Meeting on Research, as well as through the ‘Research to Business’ programme, supported by ES (AECID)
- Partnerships with GCC countries, e.g. such as via GITEX fairs, to be explored as appropriate in the framework of triangular cooperation

## BRIDGING THE SKILLS AND QUALIFICATION GAP IN LABOUR MARKETS

**Supporting the development of schemes modelled on Youth Guarantee National Plans** tailored to regional and local contexts to ensure that young people find opportunities in labour markets.

**Description of the action:** *The action will support the socio-economic inclusion of youth, particularly those not in employment, education or training (NEET), who represent 30% of youth in the southern Mediterranean region. The action will take inspiration from the EU Youth Guarantee model to support responsive policies, dedicated outreach and an integrated offer of education and training including on the job training, and access to employment or entrepreneurship, with a particular focus on the gender dimension.*

**Main deliverables and indicative timeline:**

- **Two pilot local schemes inspired from the Youth Guarantee approach are designed and set up in Morocco and Tunisia – Q4 2026**
- **Regional conference** on engaging private sector for inclusion of youth NEETs – Q4 2026

**Funding:**

- EU Funding:
  - Regional Youth ‘Not in Education, Employment or Training’ (NEETs) project (overall EUR 3 million, NDICI, [Action Document](#))
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):

**Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- Participation in the EU-funded action will be determined as per Action Document
- General interest:
  - MS: DE, FR, IE, PL, SI
  - SMPs: MO, SY, TN
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
  - FR: various existing bilateral projects in LB and MO; EU4Skills project in Libya
  - SI: ongoing work under Personalised Support in Project Learning for Young Adults
- Indicative contributions:
  - In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions (MO, JO, PL, SY)

**Bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

- ‘Skills, Talent and Empowerment through Pathways’ (STEP) project implemented with ES, IE, and IT
- Support to active and passive labour market policies: EUR 8 million (Annual Action Plan 2023), Algeria
- EU4Skills in Libya: Promoting Skills and Employability for Private Sector Development: EUR 7 million (Annual Action Plan 2023)
- “Compétences pour l’emploi et l’entrepreneuriat”, EUR 78.5 million, Morocco

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- EU Support to Youth Employability and Skills in Egypt (EU4YES) programme, EUR 25 million (Annual Action Plan 2023), and EU4YES Phase II, EUR 30 million (Multi-Annual Action Plan 2025-2027)
- EU/KfW blending project on establishment of three Centres of Competence in renewable energy and energy efficiency sector, EUR 13,5 million, Egypt
- Technical and Vocational Training (TVET) for All in Jordan programme, Jordan, EUR 15 million, (Annual Action Plan 2023)
- EduSyria, Jordan, EUR 5 million
- Inclusive Socio-Economic Modernization (ISEM), Jordan, EUR 110 million

### **Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- **UfM** to be involved through the dedicated platform of Employment and Labour, including in the context of the implementation of the **UfM** Ministerial Declaration on Employment and Labour
- **ILO** as implementing partner of the Youth NEETs project

**Establishing a MED Skill Tracker** to document the skills acquired by beneficiaries of EU or partners' projects [...].

**Description of the action:** *The action aims at addressing a critical gap in documenting and recognising skills by effectively supporting the transparency, comparability and portability of skills, competences and knowledge of people in the region with the aim of ensuring a smooth transition to, and within, labour markets and enhance competitiveness. To start with, the action will focus on two components: 1) For national labour markets, the action will support the delivery of digital credentials for learning opportunities, targeting particularly youth, women and vulnerable groups. It will promote the use of tools such as the ESCO (European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations), Skills Observatory and data portals. 2) For the EU labour market, the action will also promote mobility notably through the use of Europass profile, analysis and comparison of qualifications in priority sectors ultimately contributing to scaling up Talent Partnerships and legal migration pathways, including through existing programmes (such as THAMM+) and the upcoming Talent Pool. The action will start by involving three southern Mediterranean partner countries in pilot projects and expand in time to other countries of the region. It will ensure full ownership by national authorities and training providers.*

**Main deliverables and indicative timeline:**

- **First phase towards the MED-skills tracker is launched in three pilot southern Mediterranean partner countries – Q4 2026**
  - Identification of three pilot countries in the Mediterranean region as well as priority sectors and relevant stakeholders – Q2 2026
  - Identification of activities to start implementation – Q4 2026

**Funding:**

- EU Funding:
  - European Training Foundation's (ETF) budget
  - TAIEX (NDICI) budget (to be determined)
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, Southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):

**Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- General interest:
  - MS: BG, CY, ES, FR, MT, PT
  - SMPs: DZ, EG, JO, MO, PS, SY, TN
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
- Indicative contributions:
  - In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions or hosting dedicated events (BG, CY, DZ, ES, FR, MO, JO, PS, PT, SY)

**Regional and bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

- Regional programme for Youth NEETs (EUR 3 million, Action Document) to support youth economic empowerment in the Southern Mediterranean
- Regional programme on legal migration - THAMM+ (Towards a Holistic Approach to Migration and Mobility, EUR 75 million (partially still to be contracted), Action Documents 1, 2 and 3) co-funded by DE, FR and IT
- "Skills and Entrepreneurship", EUR 78.5 million, Morocco

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- “Technical and Vocational Training (TVET) for All”, EUR 15 million (co-funded by GIZ), Action document
- EU Support to Youth Employability and Skills in Egypt (EU4YES) and EU4YES Phase II

### **Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- **UfM** to be associated on regional policy dialogue, notably through its Platform on Employment and Labour (next discussions in Q1 and Q4 2026) and the UfM Employment Forum (Q4 2026), as well as through the UfM Community of Practices on Youth Employment. Possible association of GCC countries to be explored

**Enhancing quality apprenticeships and improved work-based learning models**, notably by promoting southern Mediterranean partners' participation to the European Alliance of Apprenticeship.

**Description of the action:** *The action will promote southern Mediterranean partners' participation to the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA), working towards a further internationalisation of the EAfA. The EAfA aims to strengthen the quality, supply and overall image of apprenticeships across Europe, while also promoting the mobility of apprentices. By becoming members of the EAfA, southern Mediterranean partners will be able to benefit from Apprenticeship Support Services, which provide online resources and networking opportunities that enable like-minded individuals to connect, learn and act.*

**Main deliverables and indicative timeline:**

- JO joined the European Alliance for Apprenticeships – Q1 2026
- EG to join the European Alliance for Apprenticeships – Q3 2026
- 2026 EAfA regional seminar – Q4 2026

**Funding:**

- EU Funding:
  - EAfA Framework Contract
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):

**Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- General interest:
  - MS: AT, DE, FR, HR, MT, PL, SI
  - SMPs: EG, JO, MO, TN
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
  - AT: existing UNIDO/EG programme
  - DE: existing work of Saxony-Egypt University
  - FR: various existing bilateral programmes
  - HR: existing bilateral projects
- Indicative contributions:
  - In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions (EG, FR, HR, MO, JO, PL, SI, TN)

**Bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

- ENABLE – Empowering networks and activation for building long-term employment, EUR 10 million, Lebanon
- QUAVET – Improving the quality and attractiveness of TVET in Lebanon for poor and vulnerable groups, EUR 3.5 million
- “Competences pour l’emploi et l’entrepreneuriat”, EUR 78.5 million, Morocco
- EU Support to Youth Employability and Skills in Egypt (EU4YES) programme EU4YES Phase II
- Technical and Vocational Training (TVET) for All, Jordan, EUR 15 million, (Annual Action Plan 2023)
- The Supporting Economic Recovery and Resilience programme in Palestine (SERR-PAL), Palestine

**Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- **UfM** to be associated on regional policy dialogue, notably through its Platform on Employment and Labour (next discussions in Q1 and Q4 2026) and the UfM Employment Forum (Q4 2026)

EURO-MED INITIATIVE FOR CULTURE, SPORT AND TOURISM

**Protecting and valorising cultural heritage [...].**

**Description of the actions:** *The actions will support protection and revitalisation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage through the rehabilitation and promotion of cultural heritage sites and cultural landmarks, through a regional approach and aiming at i) enhancing (youth) skills and employment, ii) stimulating sustainable economic activity, iii) strengthening cultural roots and identity, and iv) promoting social cohesion. The action will also support several cultural expressions, including performing of visual and audiovisual arts, as well as contemporary arts. The actions will also develop activities promoting inclusion of women in the area of sports.*

**Main deliverables and indicative timeline:**

- Establishment of a **dedicated mechanism** providing support and capacity building to local cultural organisations and professionals to protect and promote the Mediterranean cultural heritage, including heritage damaged in conflicts – Q4 2026
- Launch of “**Common Past, Shared Future**” initiative, as platform for cultural heritage cooperation, including rehabilitation projects, including:
  - Cultural Heritage Award – Q2 2026
  - Design and establishment of a Secretariat to promote cross-country capacity building and coordination at regional level – Q4 2026

**Funding:**

- EU Funding:
  - COM financing decision to be adopted in Q3 2026 (NDICI)
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation, private sector):

**Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- Participation in the EU-funded action will be determined as per COM action document. Possible participation of GCC countries and Mauritania to be explored
- General interest:
  - MS: CY, EL, ES, FR, HR, IT, LT, MT, PL, PT, RO
  - SMPs: DZ, EG, IL, JO, LB, PS, SY, TN
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
  - ES: existing programmes at bilateral level
  - FR: existing programmes at bilateral level
  - HR: upcoming launch of Mediterranean Music Bridges Project – Q2 2026
  - IE: contribution to UNESCO Gaza Heritage Emergency Fund
- Indicative contributions:
  - In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions (CY, EG, ES, FR, IT, JO, LB, LT, MT, PS, PT, RO, TN, SY)

**Bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

- Tourism-Culture-Youth: Engaging Young People in the Revitalisation of Territorial Tourism and Cultural Development in Algeria, EUR 11 million (Annual Action Plan 2025)
- Restoring Lebanon's Heritage for an Engaged Community, EUR 1 million

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- Tech for Memory, EUR 0.7 million, Lebanon
- FANN: Fostering Arts, Narratives, and New Perspectives for Social Cohesion, EUR 0.6 million, Lebanon
- Promotion of Cultural and Artistic Activities in Lebanon through EU Support, EUR 0.2 million
- National Antiquities and Heritage Management Initiative (NAHMI), EUR 1.8 million (Annual Action Plan 2023), Libya
- Heritage, Education, Restoration and Inclusion for a Thriving Archaeological Generation (HERITAGE), EUR 2.2 million (Annual Action Plan 2023), Libya
- Valorisation du patrimoine culturel dans l'offre touristique, Tunisia, EUR 19 million
- Tounes Wijhetouna, Tunisia, EUR 5.6 million
- Cultural and Creative Industry ecosystem building support, EUR 10.8 million, Morocco
- EU support to Archaeological Park West Aswan to promote participatory site management and improved accessibility to the culturally significant sites of Qubbet el Hawa and Qubbet el Hawa North, EUR 2.5 million, Egypt
- EU support to sustainable Cultural Heritage in Jordan, EUR 10 million (Annual Action Plan 2023)
- Appui aux Industries culturelles, EUR 10 million, Morocco, AAP 2022
- Tourisme-Culture-Jeunesse: Participation des jeunes à la dynamisation touristique et culturelle des territoires en Algérie, EUR 11 million, AAP 2025
- Programme d'appui à la diversification du tourisme, au développement de l'artisanat et à la valorisation du patrimoine culturel, EUR 45 Million, Tunisia, AAP 2018
- Protection of cultural heritage, EUR 7.5 million, Libya
- Sustainable Cultural Heritage, Jordan, EUR 10 million (Annual Action Plan 2023)
- Improving local development to increase the resilience of host communities and refugees in North Jordan, Jordan, EUR 7 million (Special Measures 2021)
- SM 2026-2027 Building Tomorrow Together: Youth, Rights, Rule of Law, and Culture in Palestine, Palestine, EUR 36 million
- Petra National Trust (PTT) Heritage Award, Jordan, EUR 70.000

### **Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- **UfM** and **Anna Lindh Foundation** to be possibly involved in the framework of Mediterranean capitals of Culture, as appropriate

## EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY, YOUTH AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

**Establishing a Youth Parliamentary Assembly for the Mediterranean** to gather the voice and the input of the youth.

**Description of the action:** *The aim of the action is to create a safe, structured space that brings together young, elected representatives from southern Mediterranean partner countries and the EU, who would provide guidance and advice on issues of interest to them regarding Mediterranean policies. The action will also improve the overall level of youth engagement in the Common Mediterranean Space, building on existing structures and programmes.*

**Main deliverables and indicative timeline:**

- **First plenary meeting** of the Youth Parliamentary Assembly – Q4 2026

**Funding:**

- EU Funding:
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation)

**Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- General interest:
  - o MS: BG, CY, ES, FR, RO, SI
  - o SMPs: JO, IL, MO, PS
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
- Indicative contributions:
  - o In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions (CY, FR, JO, LB, MO, PS, RO, SI, SY)

**Regional and bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

- YOUTHMED Empowering youth for an Inclusive MEDiterranean - Interreg NEXT MED, EUR 1 million
- MedYCI Mediterranean Youth for Creative Impact – Interreg NEXT MED, EUR 1 million
- Linataawan Phase II - EU for Civil society in Libya, EUR 3.7 million (AAP 2023)
- EU support to Equal Opportunities and Human Development, EUR 10 million, co-financed with GIZ (Multi-Annual Action Plan 2022-2024), Egypt
- Youth Inclusion in Jordan's Development Process, Jordan, 3.5 million (Annual Action Plan 2019)
- Support to Democratic Reforms, Jordan, 10 million (Annual Action Plan 2022)
- SM 2025 Building State Functionality and Legitimacy in Crisis: Local Governance, Rule of Law and Democratisation, Palestine, EUR 30 million

**Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- **UfM** to be involved through its Parliamentary Assembly

**Strengthening support for media organisations**, by facilitating capacity-building initiatives, providing opportunities for collaborative projects and fostering the exchange of experiences. The action will strengthen our ongoing cooperation to support young influencers in the region.

**Description of the action:** *The action's focus will be two-fold: it will support cross-border understanding, encourage citizen engagement and stakeholder engagement, while highlighting and showcasing how the Pact's initiatives contribute to shared prosperity across the region. It aims to support a media ecosystem that advances accountability, transparency, and verified information in the Arab World, supporting in the fight against disinformation, FIMI and hate speech, while enhancing fact-checking capacity and strengthening media literacy among diverse demographic groups. In addition, the action will further strengthen ongoing efforts to support early career journalists, journalism students, and youth networks of influencers and content creators in the Mediterranean region.*

**Main deliverables and indicative timeline:**

- 'Oh Mediterranea', 30 minutes Creative Performance celebrating Mediterranean unity, inspired by the Pact for the Mediterranean's values and mandate – Q1 2026
- Storylab Connect Format, in-person gatherings to explore thematic issues and develop constructive, ethical reporting skills – Q4 2026
- Newsroom Connect Format, cross-border newsroom and two-day editorial hackathon where journalists collaborate in a live editorial lab – Q3 2026
- Media Week Format, week-long hybrid programme celebrating journalism across the Mediterranean and the Gulf – Q3 2026

**Funding:**

- EU Funding:
  - Approx. EUR 200,000 per year under EUMed Bridge programme to support the organisation of three Storylab Connect events, Newsroom Connect, and Media Week
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):

**Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- Participation in the EU-funded actions will be determined as per COM action document. Participation of GCC countries envisaged
- General interest:
  - MS: CY, FR, HR, NL, RO
  - SMPs: LB, MO
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
  - CY: campaign on waste in coastal areas in LB
- Indicative contributions:
  - In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions (CY, HR, MO, LB, RO)

**Bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

- Libya Media Resilience Programme (LMRP): Strengthening Media and Information Integrity, EUR 2.3 million, (Annual Action Plan 2024)
- "On en parle! Tunisie 360", Tunisia, EUR 1.5 million
- NesTounes, Tunisia, EUR 1.5 million

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- Appui aux initiatives médiatiques permettant d'alimenter le débat dans le domaine socio-économique, Tunisia, EUR 0.9 million
- "L'accès à l'information comme outil de plaidoyer, de transparence et de bonne gouvernance", EUR 300 000, Morocco
- EU support to Equal Opportunities and Human Development, EUR 10 million, co-financed with GIZ (Multi-Annual Action Plan 2022-2024), Egypt
- Call for proposals to be launched under Human Rights and Democracy thematic budget line, Jordan, EUR 3 million
- SM 2025 Building State Functionality and Legitimacy in Crisis: Local Governance, Rule of Law and Democratisation, Palestine, EUR 30 million

### **Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

## PILLAR II – STRONGER, MORE SUSTAINABLE AND INTEGRATED ECONOMIES

### STARTUP4MED

**Description of the actions:** *The actions aim at promoting inclusive growth and decent job creation, including supporting startups, by strengthening the policy framework of southern Mediterranean partners, their entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem and improve access to finance, particularly for youth-led and women-led businesses. The actions will also allow to mobilise concessional funding for social and innovation driven enterprises, local actors, institutions and cooperatives at early-stage development, along with equity and debt products to more mature and middle-sized social enterprises, in line with the Global Gateway. The action will contribute to regional dialogue and economic integration.*

**Main deliverables and indicative timeline:**

- **Enhanced entrepreneurship and Job creation ecosystems, including StartUps**
  - Promote funds and financial products in support to start ups, MSMEs and job creation – Q3 2026
  - Launch of the EU-UNWOMEN Flagship on surging women employment by 5% – Q2 2026
  - Launch of the Arab Impact Network to mobilise contributions of Arab investors for social enterprises – Q3 2026
- **Strengthened access to finance**
  - Launch of the **Social Entrepreneurship Fund** by EU, DE and -Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) – Q2 2026
  - Roll out of EFSD+ guarantees and blending in support of SMEs and inclusive entrepreneurship and job creation - Q3 2026
- **Enhanced policy framework through:**
  - Support to policy and regulatory frameworks and business environment – Contract to be signed in Q3 2026
  - Impact investing in youth and women access to finance/empowerment – Q3 2026

**Funding:**

- EU Funding:
  - Available guarantee capacity for access to finance approx. EUR 470 million
  - COM financing decision adopted in 2025 EUR 30 million ([Action Document](#))
  - Guarantee agreements and blended finance under the framework of EFSD+
  - Additional COM financing decision to be adopted in Q3 2026 (NDICI)
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):
  - DE, FR, IT, ES, SE and their implementing agencies (GIZ, KfW, AFD, AICS, AECID, SIDA), as well as EFIs are involved in the implementation of the action via the regional Team Europe Initiative on Jobs in the Southern Mediterranean (approx. EUR 3 billion<sup>4</sup>)

**Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

<sup>4</sup> Please note that the amount refers to both COM regional programmes and EU MS bilateral ones.

- Participation in the EU-funded action will be determined as per COM action document once adopted. Possible participation of GCC countries to be explored
- General interest:
  - o MS: CY, DE, ES, FR, HU, NL, MT, PT, RO, SI
  - o SMPs: DZ, IL, JO, LB, MO, PS, SY, TN
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
  - o BE: Governmental cooperation programme, 2004-2028, Morocco Euro, 30 million; several projects on decent work, 2022 – 2026, Morocco 13,7 million
  - o DE: General support to SMEs and startup ecosystems in the region
  - o ES: existing bilateral and regional projects, including Social Economy initiatives and support to UfM Employment Hub
  - o FR: existing bilateral and regional projects, including “Emerging Mediterranean”
  - o HU: existing cooperation with DZ on Startup Fund
  - o SI: existing cooperation within EMUNI, Euro-Mediterranean Chamber of Commerce and network of Knowledge and Innovation Centres (EKICs) and the Euro-Mediterranean Chamber of Commerce
- Indicative contributions:
  - o In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions (CY, DZ, HU, LB, MO, MT, JO, PS, PT, RO, SY, TN)

### **Regional and bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

- EU-Algeria Partnership for Investment and Business Climate Enhancement (EU-Algeria for Business), EUR 16 million (Annual Action Plan 2025)
- INVEST4Libya: Strengthening the Public Finance System and Enhancing Investment for the Digital and Green Transition, EUR 11 million (Annual Action Plan 2024)
- Greenov'i - EU4Innovation: projet d'appui à l'entrepreneuriat vert en Tunisie, Tunisia, EUR 12 million
- Appui aux projets d'amélioration de la qualité et la pertinence de l'offre de formation initiale, continue et des services d'accompagnement à l'emploi dans les 8 gouvernorats cibles du programme "IRADA", Tunisia, EUR 10 million
- Facilité d'assistance technique: Appui au Ministère de l'Economie et de la Planification de la Tunisie pour le suivi du Programme d'Appui à la Gouvernance Economique (PAGE), Tunisia, EUR 0.8 million
- Cultural and Creative Industry ecosystem building support, EUR 10.8 million, Morocco
- “Compétences pour l’emploi et l’entrepreneuriat”, EUR 78.5 million, Morocco
- Support to the Mohammed VI Fund for investment, EUR 60 million, Morocco
- EU Support to Economic Governance, Investment Climate, and Job Creation in Egypt, EUR 45,5 million (Multi-Annual Action Plan 2025-2027)
- EU-Jordan Economic Resilience, Trade and Investment, Jordan, EUR 63 million, (AAP 2025-2027)
- Budget Support and complementary measures on private sector development and entrepreneurship, Jordan
- Business advisory project implemented by EBRD, Jordan, EUR 5 million
- Entrepreneurship policy implemented by GIZ
- EU4Business – Trade, Investment & Standards: EUR 3,239.800.00, Palestine

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- EU4Commerce: EU Support for Upgrading the Commercial Crossings for Palestine, EUR 8,6 million
- The European Union's contribution for EU Support for the Palestinian Economy and Resilience II (ESPERE II) Single Donor Trust Fund: EUR 9,7 million, Palestine
- SAWA2 - Enhance the Resilience of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Generate Sustainable Job Opportunities in Palestine: EUR 6 million, Palestine
- Green Growth Palestine- Fostering green investments and green production and purchasing practices: EUR 6,5 million, Palestine
- Green Growth Palestine II- Unlocking Green and Resilience Investment for Palestinian MSMEs: EUR 5 million, Palestine
- Supporting Economic Recovery and Resilience programme (co-financed by AICS), EUR 10.5 million, Palestine

### **Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- **UfM** to be associated on regional policy dialogue, notably through its Platform on Employment and Labour
- The Regional Team Europe Initiative on Jobs through trade and investment will provide a coordination mechanism with the five partner **Member States (DE, ES, FR, IT, SE)**, as well as **EIB** and **EBRD**
- **Private sector actors, social partners and local organisations** from across the MENA region, and possibly GCC countries, to be involved, as relevant

## TECH BUSINESS OFFER FOR INTEGRATED DIGITAL AND DATA ECONOMIES

**Description of the actions:** *The actions will promote secure and trusted digital interconnection across the Common Mediterranean Space. They will strengthen regional connectivity through submarine cable systems, support telecommunications capacity-building and regulatory cooperation, share expertise on e-governance (including digital identities and digital public infrastructure), and enhance technical exchanges and cooperation on cybersecurity.*

**Main deliverables and indicative timeline:**

- Launch of the **Support to Digital Transition in the Southern Neighbourhood Programme** – Q1 2026
- Signature of the contract of the extension of the Medusa Submarine Cable to Jordan - Q2 2026

**Funding:**

- EU Funding:
  - Support to Digital Transition in the Southern Neighbourhood Programme, EUR 14 million (Action Document)
  - Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP), EUR 11.3 million (Medusa Submarine Cable System extension to JO)
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):
  - DE: EUR 1,4 million to Support to Digital Transition in the Southern Neighbourhood Programme

**Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- CY, DZ, EG, EL, ES FR, IT, LY, MO, TN are already involved in the implementation of the action. Possible participation of GCC countries to be explored
- General interest:
  - MS: CZ, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO
  - SMPs: DZ, EG, IL, JO, LB, MO, TN, PS, SY
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
  - BG: existing programmes and initiatives such as INSAIT, GATE, Sofia Tech Park
  - DE: EU-Cofinancing Agreement ‘Enhancing E-Commerce and Digital Trade in the Southern Neighbourhood’
  - FI: upcoming Finnish Digital and Green Transition support programme; involvement of Finnish CSC (host of LUMI supercomputer) in new EU-Morocco supercomputer cooperation initiative; active involvement in the EU’s D4D Hub
  - FR: various existing bilateral programmes, technical assistance and private sector partnership
  - LV: regional D4D project on Capacity building for cybersecurity and artificial intelligence with EU funding
  - SI: Support to regional AI ecosystems through Slovenia’s emerging AI factory (SLAIF).
- Indicative contributions:

- In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions (CZ, DZ, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, IL, JO, LB, LV, NL, MO, MT, PL, PS, PT, RO, SI, SY, TN)

**Regional and bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

- ELMED+: Owners' Engineering, Tunisia, EUR 12.5 million
- ELMED Plus Power Interconnection - EBRD Part, Tunisia, EUR 5.3 million
- Hannibal, Tunisia, EUR 11.5 million.
- MEDUSA, Tunisia, EUR 40.2 million
- MEDUSA, Egypt, EUR 40 million
- Tech BUISNES OFFER, Jordan

**Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- **GEANT (European National Research and Education Networks) and ASREN (Arab States Research and Education Network)** are actively involved in MEDUSA research connectivity part implementation
- Reinforcement and expansion of efforts under **IMEC**

## TRANS-MEDITERRANEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CLEAN TECH INITIATIVE (T-MED)

**Description of the action:** *The action will establish a T-MED Investment Platform to build a pipeline of renewable energy, grid and clean-tech projects, mobilising blended finance and de-risking solutions to catalyse investment and industrial partnerships. It will deliver a dedicated regulatory support mechanism, the Regulatory Accelerator to strengthen investment readiness, actions in infrastructure planning and coordination, including cross-border infrastructure to enable trade in renewable energies, identification of opportunities for cooperation on manufacturing of clean energy technologies, and a T-MED Skills Agenda to support training and skills development. In this context, the action will contribute to ensuring a conducive business and investment environment to facilitate investments in clean energies, technologies and raw materials for the energy transitions.*

### Main deliverables and indicative timeline:

- **Launch of T-MED initiative** – Q2 2026
- **Launch of call for proposals** for T-MED investments – Q3 2026.
- **Establishment of T-MED investment platform** – Q4 2026
- **Study on Mapping of Clean Tech Industry in the MENA Region** – Q4 2026
- **Launch of a T-Med technical support instrument (T-Med Facility)** - Q4 2026

### Funding:

- EU Funding:
    - Guarantee agreements and blended finance under the framework of EFSD+
      - guarantee approx. EUR 600 million
      - blended finance EUR 100 million
- Together with contributions from other partners, including banks and private sector 7.4 billion are expected to be mobilised
- EUR 20.2 million in EU grants for regional technical assistance (period 2026 – 2029)
  - Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):

### Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:

- General interest:
  - MS: AT, CY, CZ, DE, EL, ES, FR, HR, IT, LT, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI
  - SMPs: DZ, EG, JO, IL, LB, MO, PS, TN, SY
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
  - DE: climate partnerships in MENA region
  - EL: GREGY interconnector, PMI project
  - FR: existing bilateral programmes and technical assistance
  - IT: Various energy connectivity projects in North Africa (ELMED electricity interconnection (IT-TN), Southern Hydrogen Corridor (AT- DE -IT-TN-DZ) and MEDLINK renewable electricity transmission project).
- Indicative contributions:
  - In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions (CY, CZ, DZ, EG, EL, ES, FR, JO, HR, IL, LB, LT, MO, MT, PL, PS, PT, RO, SI, SY, TN)

### **Regional and bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

- Existing ongoing EU Twinning initiatives
- Support to Algeria's Energy Transition: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, EUR 18 million (Annual Action Plan 2023);
- Support to Algeria's Energy Transition and Green Hydrogen Development, EUR 18 million (Annual Action Plan 2024);
- Integration of EU-Algeria Value Chains in Cleantech and Other Priority Sectors – Cleantech Platform, EUR 18 million (Annual Action Plan 2025)
- TunisiaSolar and wind projects, EUR 35 million, Tunisia
- ELMED+. Tunisia, EUR 17.8 million
- Solar and wind projects. Tunisia, EUR 35.8 million
- STEG Reform and Restructuring Project. Tunisia, 22.9 million
- EU Green Facility, EUR 7 million, Egypt
- EU/KfW blending project on establishment of three Centres of Competence in renewable energy and energy efficiency sector, EUR 13,5 million, Egypt
- EU and EIB Egypt Green Hydrogen project, EUR 34.3 million, Egypt
- EU and EIB Egypt Grid Modernisation and Expansion programme, EUR 90 million, Egypt
- Upgrading of electricity transmission and distribution systems of the Alexandria Regional Control Center with AFD, EUR 60 million, Egypt
- NWFE Grid reinforcement project with EBRD, EUR 44,4 million, Egypt
- Ain Sokhna Green Ammonia project, EUR 35 million, Egypt
- Green Sustainability Industry with EIB and AFD, EUR 30,59 million, Egypt
- Support to the Electricity Regulatory Authority through the regional EU-funded project MEDREG, Lebanon
- Country Entrepreneurship for Distributed Renewables Opportunities - CEDRO V, EUR 6 million, Lebanon
- Climate and Sustainable Energy Partnership (CASEP) in Libya, EUR 4 million (Annual Action Plan 2022)
- Support to municipalities in Libya - Fostering decentralised service delivery of solid waste management and its positive impact on the environment and economy, EUR 7.5 million (Annual Action Plan 2022)
- Twinning contract with Autorité Nationale de Régulation de l'Electricité, EUR 1 million, Morocco
- Relance Verte, EUR 10 million, Morocco
- Ongoing EFSD+ sovereign guarantee provisioning covering EIB support to ONEE (in co-financing with KfW)
- MEDREG (Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators) - Supporting the T-MED Regulatory Accelerator, conducting country reviews contributing to T-MED, EUR 5 million
- Med-TSO (Association of Mediterranean Transmission System Operators) - Supporting interconnection planning, grid modernisation and harmonisation of grid codes EUR 4.5 million

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- OMEC (Organisation Méditerranéenne de L'Energie et du Climat) - supporting the T-MED Dashboard, tracking progress on renewable deployment, infrastructure, skills, industrial capacity and Investment flows, EUR 2 million
- Northern Green Substation and Overhead Transmission Lines implemented by EBRD, Jordan, EUR 65 million (including EBRD contribution)
- SUNREF II (2022-2026), Palestine, EUR 11.5 million
- Nexus North Project, Palestine, EUR 7.5 million

### **Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- UfM Regional Platforms on Energy and on Trade, investment and industry might be involved as a forum for dialogue
- The Regional Team Europe Initiative (TEI) Jobs through trade and investment as coordination mechanism with the five partner **Member States (DE, ES, FR, IT, SE)**, as well as **EIB** and **EBRD**
- Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), possibly expanded to GCC countries, and European industrial clusters
- Opportunities for future synergies with **IMEC**
- Coordination and synergies in view of the **EU-GCC Conference on Energy**

## BLUE MEDITERRANEAN HEALTH AND WEALTH

**Supporting investments in sustainable blue economy solutions** through the Blue Mediterranean Partnership and the BlueInvest platform.

**Description of the action:** *The Blue Mediterranean Partnership (BMP) is a joint action between implementing partners, beneficiary countries, and donors to help deliver sustainable blue economy projects in the southern Mediterranean region, in line with EU priorities. The action is expected to support the BMP to help identify, prepare, and implement projects, as well as build capacity, promote policy reform, and reinforce the enabling environment for blue economy investments in the Mediterranean.*

**Main deliverables and indicative timeline:**

- **Coordination mechanism** is established to expand the framework of more beneficiary countries – Q4 2026
- Signature of EU contribution to the BMP initiative (EBRD, EIB, AfD) - Q4 2026

**Funding:**

- EU Funding:
  - o Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP), EUR 7 million
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):
  - o DE, ES, FR, SE pledges

**Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- BMP partners: EG, JO, MO
- General interest:
  - o MS: CY, DE, ES, FR, IT, PL
  - o SMPs: DZ, EG, IL, JO, LB, PS, SY
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
  - o DE: support to sustainable blue economy and marine resource management initiatives in the Mediterranean.
  - o ES: Financial and technical support through AECID to the UfM Sustainable Blue Economy Platform and FAO/GFCM blue economy programme
  - o FR: “Green and Resilient Ports” programme in Morocco OMMP Green Ports project in Tunisia
- Indicative contributions:
  - o In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions (CY, DZ, DE, ES, IL, LB, MO, NL, PL, PS, SY, TN)

**Bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

- Blue Economy in Algeria – Fisheries and Aquaculture, EUR 5 million (Annual Action Plan 2021)
- MEDFISHTUN - Appui à la gestion durable des ressources halieutiques et aquacoles, Tunisia, EUR 6 million
- Support for Morocco’s National Water Policy – APNEM, EUR 348.4 million, Morocco
- EU Support towards effective and Sustainable Nature Conservation Management, EUR 20 million (Multi-Annual Action Plan 2025-2027), Egypt

**Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- **UfM** to be associated on dialogue
- Implementing partners: Multilateral development banks, development finance institutions and international organisations, including the Agence Française de Développement (**AFD**), Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (**CDP**), **EBRD**, the **EIB**, and the **KfW**

PILLAR III – SECURITY, PREPAREDNESS AND MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

EU-MED PEACE AND SECURITY INITIATIVE

**Setting up a regional forum for the EU and the southern Mediterranean countries on peace and security. [...]**

**Description of the action:** *The organisation of a regional forum for the EU and the southern Mediterranean countries on peace and security is foreseen, which intends to provide an informal setting to foster joint regional situational awareness, share views and coordinate approaches on issues of common interest, such as the regional security situation and respective peace and security activities.*

**Main deliverables and indicative timeline:**

- Holding the regional forum in Brussels, as dedicated meeting, towards Q4 2026, composed of a high-level segment and two working sessions on topics of common interest-notably maritime security and countering terrorism/preventing violent extremism for active exchange.

**Funding:**

- EU Funding:
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation): N/A

**Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners: (to be considered at a later stage)**

**Bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment: N/A**

**Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and/or other stakeholders: N/A**

*“EU MED Security Facility”*

**Description of the action:** *This action contributes to reforming the Security Sector governance and performance across the southern Mediterranean and the Gulf, notably in response to the imminent threat of security spillover due to protracted crisis and recent conflicts in the Middle East and Gulf. Central to this strategy is the support to national institutions to efficiently deliver results, in line with international standards. The action will support long-term trust-building between security actors and local communities, which is essential to counteract regional polarization and restore social cohesion. By fostering this mutual trust alongside strategic institutional support, the action seeks to transform reactive security measures into a resilient, community-oriented framework capable of navigating the current regional crisis.*

**Main deliverables and indicative timeline:**

- Launch of the **EU-MED Security Facility** to provide tailored mentoring and advisory assistance to security institutions – Q4 2026

**Funding:**

- EU Funding:
  - COM financing decision to be adopted in Q4 2026 (NDICI)
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):

**Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- Participation in the EU-funded action will be determined as per COM action document
- General interest:
  - MS: FR, HU, IT, SI
  - SMPs: EG, IL, LB, PS
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
  - IT: Mediterranean Women Mediators Network
- Indicative contributions:
  - In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions (MO, PS)

**Bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

**Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- Partnerships with GCC countries to be explored as appropriate in the framework of triangular cooperation

## MEDITERRANEAN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

**Expanding cooperation in civil protection**, by building on existing regional initiatives [...]. **A new European Firefighting Hub based in Cyprus** will also support regional neighbours

**Description of the action:** *The action will enhance the capacity of the Cyprus Aerial Firefighting Station (CRAFS) to tackle fire disasters, ensure faster responses, and safeguard communities and ecosystems. The cross-border collaboration encouraged by CRAFS will also provide a platform for exchanging best practices and innovative firefighting techniques, further bolstering the collective resilience against future fire threats.*

**Main deliverables and indicative timeline:**

- Organisation of regional wildfires workshop and **inauguration of the CRAFS in Paphos** – Q2 2026
- Seasonal **pre-positioning of firefighters and aerial firefighting assets** – Q2 2026
- Extensive **wildfire training offer and knowledge exchange** for southern Mediterranean partners and EU MS and Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) countries – Q3 2026
  - Wildfire preparedness exercises - Q4 2026
  - Simulation training exercises (Table-top exercises) - Q3 2026

**Funding:**

- EU Funding:
  - Prevention, Preparedness, Response to natural and man-made Disasters in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (PPRD MED), EUR 3 million (NDICI, [Action Document](#)).
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):

**Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- General interest:
  - MS: CY, ES, FR, LT
  - SMPs: EG, IL, JO, LB, SY
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
  - FR: ongoing project on forest fire response in LB
  - CY: Cyprus Regional Aerial Firefighting Station (CRAFS) infrastructure; organisation of a dedicated high-level launch event.
- Indicative contributions:
  - In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions (EG, ES, IL, JO, LB, LT, SY)

**Regional and bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

- MedFireWise - Interreg NEXT MED, EUR 2 million
- SIMMER Strategic Integration of Operational and Legal Frameworks for resilience and management of Mediterranean Wildfires - Interreg NEXT MED, EUR 2.4 million
- Climate Action: Support to the Implementation of the Paris Agreement in Algeria, EUR 10 million (Annual Action Plan 2023)

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- Support to Water Sector Reform and Governance in Algeria, EUR 20 million (Annual Action Plan 2024)
- Recovery and Development in Libya Facility, EUR 16 million (Annual Action Plan 2024)
- Strengthening Stabilisation and Recovery in Eastern Libya, EUR 2.5 million (Annual Action Plan 2023)
- Technical Assistance on post-earthquake reconstruction, EUR 2 million, Morocco
- PASS III, EUR 100 million, Morocco
- Terre Verte, EUR 115 million, Morocco

### **Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- **UfM** to be involved through its platform on Civil Protection and by contributing to the organisation of the workshops on wildfires

## IMPLEMENTING A WHOLE-OF-ROUTE APPROACH TO MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

### **Enhancing cooperation on preventing illegal migration, countering migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings**

**Description of the action:** *The action's overall aim in the context of the European Asylum and Migration Management Strategy for the period 2026-2031 will be to strengthen international cooperation in the region to continue preventing people from putting their lives at risk in dangerous journeys, to sustain the reduction in illegal arrivals, to reduce the pressure on the Member States' asylum and migrations systems and to promote globally the respect of migrants and refugees' fundamental rights. One key element contributing to the success of this action in a whole-of-route approach is the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling.*

#### **Main deliverables and indicative timeline and associated funding:**

- Four test interventions to be carried out through the Global Alliance Rapid Response Initiatives (GARRI), including one in Egypt – Q2 2026
- Enhance the information sharing and increase the use of INTERPOL databases in the region by at least 10% in relation to migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings - Q4 2026
- Initiate first steps towards **developing a strengthened and coordinated whole-of-route response** on specific routes to particularly sustain the reduction in illegal arrivals and prevent people from putting their lives at risk in dangerous journeys, starting with the route originating in South Asia, contributing to irregular flows through North Africa – Q3 2026

#### **Funding**

- EU Funding:
  - EUR 5 million (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund - AMIF, for the GARRI within the Migration Partnership Facility until February 2029).
  - Other AMIF funding for information campaigns under the 2024 INFO Call (over EUR 5 million for projects targeting Morocco, Libya, Egypt, and Tunisia).
  - Himaya programme (EUR 5 million, NDICI, [Action Document](#))
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, Southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):

#### **Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- General interest:
  - MS: AT, BE, CZ, EL, ES, FR, HR, IT, LT, MT, NL, SI
  - SMPs: EG, LB, MO, SY
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
  - FR: Bilateral projects in EG and TN, as well as in JO and LB
  - MT: Bilateral support programmes
- Indicative contributions:
  - In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions (AT, CZ, EG, EL, ES, HR, IT, LB, LT, MT, NL, SY)

**Regional and bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

- Human rights-based border management and search and rescue in Libya – SHARAKA, EUR 25 million
- Action to Combat migrant smuggling and trafficking in human being in Tunisia – ACTT, EUR 18 million
- Anti-smuggling programme Morocco, EUR 15 million
- Partnership to Counter the Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons in Egypt – PACSOM, EUR 30 million (Action Document).
- Strengthening the operational capacity of the Egyptian Navy and Egyptian Border Guards to manage migration flows through effective border surveillance and search and rescue at land and sea, EUR 110 million
- Actions under the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Multiannual Action Plan 2025 / 2027 of the Multi Country Migration Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood for ‘Support to strengthening migration governance and management’ (EUR 140 million for anti-smuggling and border management activities)

**Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- **IOM, IT Ministry of Interior, CIVIPOL, FIAP, UNODC, Expertise France, Interpol** as implementing partners of ongoing border management and anti-smuggling projects
- **ICMPD** as implementing partner for the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF) – including GARRI
- **IOM**, as a leading organisation to jointly coordinate the work with EU on strengthening a whole of route response
- Cooperation with Mauritania to be explored as appropriate in the framework of triangular cooperation

**Scaling up Talent Partnerships** [...] to facilitate links between EU employers and job seekers from partner countries [...]

**Description of the action:** *This action, linked closely to the objectives of the first pillar of the Pact, aims to reinforce the operationalisation of Talent Partnerships with partner countries of the southern Mediterranean. It will structure legal migration and mobility, attract skilled individuals to address occupational shortages, and strengthen capacity building and skills development, including possibly through the development of Legal Gateway Offices. In parallel, the action will improve collaboration on return and readmission and on fighting illegal migration.*

**Main deliverables and indicative timeline:**

- Approximately 7,000 participants to be trained/upskilled and approximately 6,500 mobilities – Q4 2026
- Three National Technical Forums with the employers in Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco – Q3 2026

**Funding:**

- EU Funding:
  - THAMM+, EUR 33 million to be topped up with additional EUR 5 million by the end of 2026
  - Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), EUR 20 million Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):
  - DE: EUR 9.7 million contribution to THAMM+ and ZML
  - FR: EUR 800.000 contribution to THAMM+

**Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- General interest:
  - MS: BE, DE, FR, HR, IE, IT, NL, PL, RO, SI
  - SMPs: EG, LB, MO
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
  - BE: EU MOBISUD 2026 – 2029, Morocco
  - DE: ZME program in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia; PAM programme in Jordan; bilateral TVET programmes implemented by GIZ and offers by AHK (German Trade Chambers) in several countries in the Southern Neighbourhood
  - IT: “Promotion of Legal Channels of Entry into Italy. Pre-departure measures and job placement for third-country nationals” (AMIF) and “Global Skills Partnership” (with the support of the World Bank).
- Indicative contributions:
  - In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions (DE, EG, FR, IE, IT, HR, JO, LB, NL, PL, RO)

**Bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

- EU Support for Safe Returns and a Stable Future for Syrian Refugees, EUR 80 million, Lebanon and Syria
- EU Support to Youth Employability and Skills in Egypt (EU4YES) and Phase II

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- EU Support for Safe Returns and a Stable Future for Syrian Refugees, Lebanon and Syria, EUR 80 million
- SM 2025 Protection and Support to Refugees, Joran, EUR 80 million

### **Involvement of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- **IOM, ILO, GIZ, OFII, Expertise France, AICS, World Bank** as implementing partners of ongoing THAMM+ programmes

## SECURE BORDERS

### **Strengthening institutional and operational border management capacities [...].**

**Selecting small- to medium-scale pilots** for implementation, based on the actions and exchanges above [...].

**Description of the action:** *This action adopts a multi-dimensional approach to effectively address the complex challenges at the Euro-Mediterranean borders, notably to address external threats, disrupting trafficking routes, and safeguarding corridors of strategic interest such as trade routes. While its primary implementation focuses on customs enforcement, the action serves as a critical pillar in the overarching fight against transnational organised crime, irregular migration, smuggling and human trafficking, including Search and Rescue (SAR) operations. By complementing existing initiatives, including in connection to the coast guard function, the action fosters mutual knowledge and understanding and builds the capacity of border control actors to coordinate seamlessly across air, land, and sea frontiers. The action will prioritise enhancing surveillance and mobile patrol operations through the exchange of best practices and joint testing of operational techniques. Ultimately, this will lead to the adaptation and implementation of harmonised working methods and possibly the creation of standard operating procedures<sup>5</sup>, ensuring a more efficient and unified border management framework.*

### **Main deliverables and indicative timeline**

- **Plenary Conference of the Mediterranean Coast Guard authorities** and operational workshop - Q3 2026
- **Euro-Mediterranean roundtable on Secure Borders**, gathering the array of actors involved in border management (customs, border police/guard, coast guard/navy) in participating countries – Q4 2026
- **Short study visits, specialised workshops, and function-based expert groups/teams** – Q4 2026

### **Funding:**

- EU Funding:
  - COM financing decision to be adopted in Q3 2026 (NDICI)
  - European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund supporting the Mediterranean Coast Guard Function Forum, EUR 90.000 per year
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):

### **Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- General interest:
  - MS: CZ, FR, EL, SI
  - SMPs: EG, JO, LB, MO
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
  - SI: ongoing bilateral partnership with DZ
- Indicative contributions:
  - In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions (CZ, FR, JO, LB)

<sup>5</sup> Secure Borders will adopt similar methodology than the one modelled on the EU Customs Alliance for Borders (EUCAB).

**Regional and bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

- EU4BorderSecurity programme, EUR 6,5 million
- Disaster Management, Port and Maritime Reform for Economic Recovery, EUR 6 million, Lebanon
- BRIDGE – Border Rights-based Integrated Development for Governance and Empowerment in Lebanon, EUR 7 million
- EU for Enhanced border security in Lebanon, EUR 25 million, Lebanon
- Appui aux opérations de recherche et de sauvetage en mer en Tunisie, Tunisia, EUR 33.5 million
- Appui au renforcement de la gestion des frontières maritimes de la Tunisie, Tunisia, EUR 18 million
- Opérationnalisation du Code de conduite et redevabilité des forces de sécurité intérieure, Tunisia, EUR 7 million
- “Strengthening the operational capacity of the Egyptian Navy and Egyptian Border Guards to manage migration flows through effective border surveillance and SAR at land and sea”, EUR 110 million, Egypt
- Partnership to Counter the Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons in Egypt (PACSOM), EUR 30 million
- Support for maritime safety and security management in Libya to address all forms of transnational organized crime in line with human rights principles, EUR 5 million
- EU training support to Libya’s border security and management institutions (EU-BMT-LY), EUR 5 million
- Human rights-based border management and search and rescue in Libya – SHARAKA, EUR 25 million
- Completion of the integrated coastal surveillance system in Tunisia – Border Management Programme Phase III, EUR 35 million
- Actions to be contracted under Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Multiannual Action Plan 2025 / 2027 of the Multi Country Migration Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood for ‘Support to strengthening migration governance and management’, EUR 140 million for activities in border management and anti-smuggling
- Border Management and security in Jordan, EUR 25 million

**Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- **Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum (MedCGFF)**, and notably **FRONTEX** through its existing working arrangements and current mandate, to be involved as existing cooperation platform among coast guard authorities in the Mediterranean

## MED-OP: JUDICIAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION

**Putting in place a regional dialogue on internal security** to be regularly convened among senior security policy officials from the Common Mediterranean Space [...].

### **Description of the action:**

*This action will establish a regional dialogue at Senior Officials level between the EU and the southern Mediterranean partners. This annual exchange is expected to start with an incremental approach, in terms of geographical and thematic scopes, having an initial focus on topics related to the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, trafficking of human beings, migrant smuggling and trafficking of drugs in order to better incorporate the security dimension in regional and bilateral cooperation. The dialogue will be modelled on the existing dialogue between COSI (Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security) and CLASI (Latin American Committee on Internal Security), with the aim to foster collaboration and strategic discussions, coordinate responses to regional security threats, align policy approaches, and provide a policy impetus to existing and future operational cooperation. It will strengthen and further develop cooperation of EU Justice and Home Affairs Agencies (Europol, CEPOL, Eurojust and Frontex) with the southern Mediterranean partners to dismantle and prosecute high-risk criminal networks and disrupt organised crime and illicit activities. It will also aim to strengthen the participation of southern Mediterranean partners in the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), as one of the most effective means of strengthening operational cooperation.*

### **Main deliverables and indicative timeline:**

- **Regional dialogue on law enforcement capacity** building at operational level – Q3 2026
- **First Senior Officials Meeting** on internal security - Q4 2026
- **Operational meeting in the context of EMPACT** on most threatening criminal networks – Q4 2026

### **Funding:**

- EU Funding:
  - COM financial decision to be adopted in Q3 2026 (NDICI), topping up ongoing Euromed Police programme (EUR 6 million, [Action Document](#))
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):

### **Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- General interest:
  - MS: -
  - SMPs: EG, IL, LB
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
- Indicative contributions:
  - In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions (EG, IL, LB)

**Regional and bilateral EU-funded actions** in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:

- EU-MED Security Facility [mentioned above]

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- EU4BorderSecurity, EUR 6,5 million
- Building Libya's national capacity to prevent and combat corruption and money laundering, (Phase II), EUR 2 million (Annual Action Plan 2024)
- EU Anti-corruption Measures for Accountability in Libya (EU AMAL), EUR 1.5 million (Annual Action Plan 2024)
- EU Developing Juvenile Justice in Libya (Phase II); EUR 3 million (Annual Action Plan 2024)
- EU Shared Action on Rule of Law Progress for Libya - Exit Route (SHARP-ER), EUR 1.5 million (Annual Action Plan 2024)
- EU Support to Rule of Law in Libya, EUR 2 million (Annual Action Plan 2024)
- Mousanada 2: Strengthening Institutions and Public Policies for Good Governance in Libya, EUR 7 million (Annual Action Plan 2023)
- "Partnership to Counter the Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons in Egypt (PACSOM)" project, EUR 30 million, Egypt
- EU support to the justice sector in Jordan, EUR 39 million

### **Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

**Guiding collaborative efforts** in combating serious and organised crime and terrorism including with the support of EU Member States and EU agencies [...].

**Description of the action:**

*This action will offer additional training for the southern Mediterranean judicial and law enforcement authorities, aiming to enhance a collective regional capacity to combat transnational crime and security threats. By building on existing regional cooperation efforts, the action will create a more unified approach, resulting in improved resource allocation, intelligence sharing, and strategic collaboration among authorities. This strengthened capability will not only increase the effectiveness of operations but also facilitate swifter responses to emerging threats, thereby reinforcing regional security and stability.*

**Main deliverables and indicative timeline:**

- Regional, sub-regional and national training for law enforcement stakeholders and judicial authorities – Q4 2026
- Provide equipment for operational capacities – Q4 2026

**Funding:**

- EU Funding:
  - COM financing decision to be adopted in Q3 2026 (NDICI), topping up ongoing Euromed Police programme (EUR 6 million, [Action Document](#)) and Euromed Justice programme (EUR 6 million, [Action Document](#))
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):

**Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- Participation in the EU-funded action will be determined as per Action Documents ([1](#) and [2](#)). Participation of GCC countries to be explored
- General interest:
  - MS: FR, LT
  - SMPs: EG, IL, JO, LB, MO
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
  - FR: ongoing project “Promote security, safety and stability” in LB
- Indicative contributions:
  - In-kind offers to exchange of information, expertise, field visits and organisation of training courses (EG, JO, LB, LT, MO)

**Regional and bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

- Promote safety, security and stability in Lebanon, EUR 30 million
- EU4Monitoring Drugs II, EUR 4 million
- CyberSouth+, EUR 3,5 million
- EU support to Equal Opportunities and Human Development, EUR 10 million, co-financed with GIZ (Multi-Annual Action Plan 2022-2024), Egypt

**Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- **EUROPOL**, as implementing partner of programme Euromed Police VI
- **CEPOL**, as implementing partner of programme Euromed Police VI
- **FRONTEX**

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- **Eurojust**, as implementing partner of the programme Euromed Justice VI, in particular EuroMed Justice Expert Group on Criminal Matters (CrimEX), EuroMed Prosecutors General Forum (PG Forum) and EuroMed Justice Network (EMJNet)
- Network of Analysis Single Points of Contact (**ANASPOC**), as responsible for the regular update of the regional threat assessment

**Supporting the negotiation and implementation of international agreements and working arrangements [...].**

**Description of the action:**

*This action will support negotiations, signature and implementation of new agreements between EU agencies (Europol, CEPOL, Frontex and Eurojust) and key southern Mediterranean partners. By fostering these critical partnerships, it will create international cooperation frameworks on law enforcement and criminal justice matters across the Common Mediterranean Space.*

**Main deliverables and indicative timeline (linked to 17.2):**

- Finalisation of **CEPOL-Egypt working arrangement** – Q4 2026
- Organisation of **short-term stays at Eurojust** for visiting professionals (already planned for DZ, EG and PS) – Q3 2026
- Online and onsite trainings under the **CEPOL-Tunisia working arrangement** – Q4 2026
- Support the negotiation of international agreements with Eurojust through dedicated **technical assistance**– Q4 2026

**Funding:**

- EU Funding:
  - COM financing decision to be adopted in Q3 2026 (NDICI), topping up ongoing Euromed Police programme (EUR 6 million, [Action Document](#)) and Euromed Justice programme (EUR 6 million, [Action Document](#))
- Other sources of funding (EU Member States, southern Mediterranean partners, possible triangular cooperation):

**Participating Member States and southern Mediterranean partners:**

- General interest
  - MS: FR, IT, LT
  - SMPs: EG, IL, LB, MO
- Related bilateral and regional actions:
- Indicative contributions:
  - In-kind offers to either provide expertise or technical contributions (LB, LT)

**Bilateral EU-funded actions in southern Mediterranean partners in alignment:**

**Role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and stakeholders:**

- **CEPOL**, as implementing partner of programme Euromed Police VI
- **Eurojust**, as implementing partner of the programme Euromed Justice VI