



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

Intervention by Ms. Emmanuelle Gardan, Programme Manager for
Higher Education and Research at the UfM Secretariat

At the 4th Meeting of the EHEA Advisory Group on EHEA
International Cooperation

Building Regional Dialogues

Round Table

Mediterranean, North Africa & Arabic Countries

30-31 January 2017

The UfM : The Euro-Mediterranean intergovernmental institution

Three main topics for collaboration and recommendations to the main actors

- . Youth employability
- . Advancing the Mobility agenda
- . Higher Education Governance

Three activities to implement international cooperation

- . Regional policy dialogue
- . Peer-learning activities and networks
- . Regional structural projects

Challenges, benefits and risks

- . Ownership
- . Sustainability
- . Stability

43 MEMBER COUNTRIES



1 MISSION

- To provide **a platform for regional policy dialogue** and promote **concrete initiatives and projects with tangible impact** to address the key needs of the region: human development, connectivity and infrastructures with a view to **enhance regional cooperation and integration.**

UfM | Strategic priorities

Human Development

Fostering human development: **education**, youth employability and women empowerment are essential to addressing the **root causes** of the current challenges in the region.



26 UfM labelled projects addressing human development

Regional Integration

Strengthening **regional integration** through sustainable development, connectivity, trade and investment.



Regional stability

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



Regional challenges need a coordinated regional approach

UfM | The UfM Framework for Action

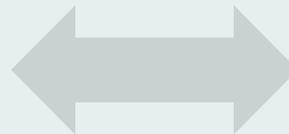
Political Forum through UfM Ministerial Meetings



Projects with Regional Impact



Regional Policy Dialogue Platforms



Index

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Identification of main topics for collaboration

UfM Roadmap (January 2017)

- Ministers agree to **launch a Positive agenda for the Youth in the Mediterranean** through facilitating higher education, employability, mobility (...).
- Education and youth mobility constitute **an essential part of the answers to the challenges** faced by the Mediterranean.

UfM Regional Dialogue on Higher Education Internationalisation and Academic Mobility in the Euro-Mediterranean area

- Strengthen **regional cooperation** and synergies amongst UfM Member States and relevant actors and stakeholders.
- Amplify **sustainable partnerships** between higher education institutions throughout the Mediterranean and enhance further **academic mobility**.
- Closely inter-related with UfM Secretariat participation in **EHEA Advisory Group 1**.

UfM labelled projects with regional impact (*examples*)

- Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes
- EMUNI University
- HOMERe – Intra-regional internship mobility scheme

UfM eco-system

- Partnering with networks of universities and higher education institutions : UNIMED, AARU, Téthys, EUA, UNICA, RMEI, AECHE process...
- Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM
- Anna Lindh Foundation, etc.

Three main inter-related topics for collaboration

Addressing Youth employability

- A key common issue for the entire region.
- Improving academia-industry collaboration.
- Development of students' employability and entrepreneurship skills.
- Matching skills and labour market needs and reducing transitions.

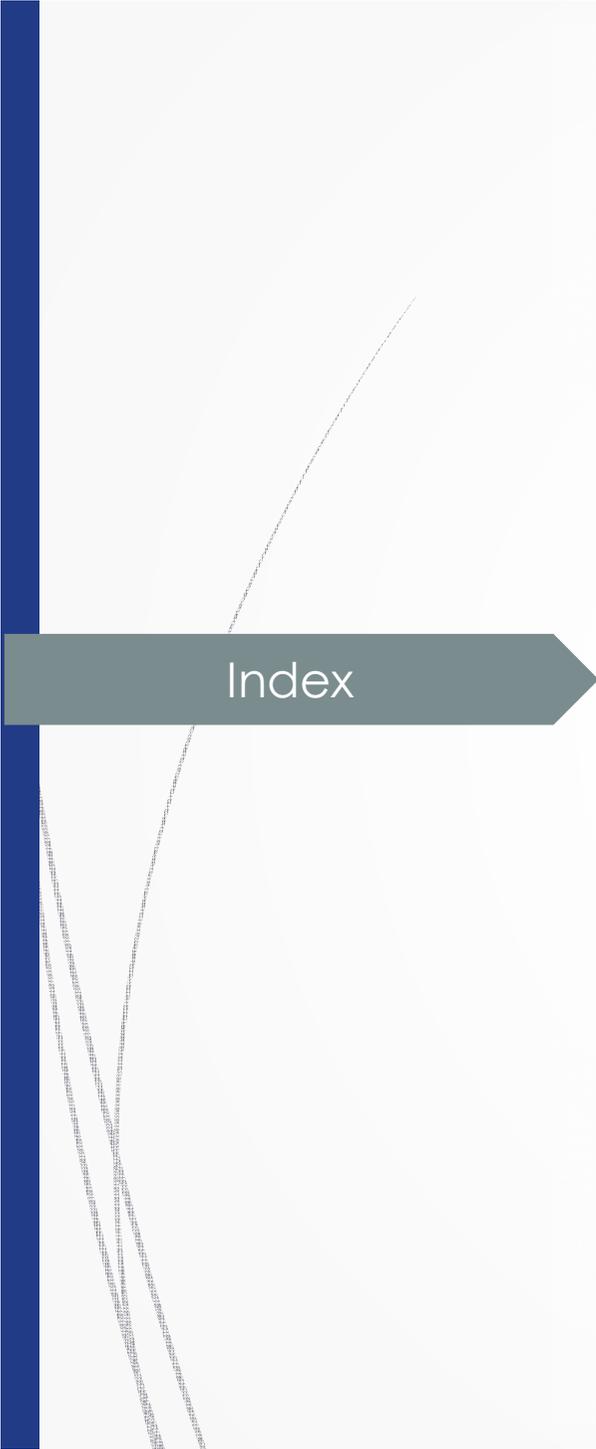
Advancing the Academic Mobility Agenda

- Need to adopt a holistic strategic approach.
- Reinforcing regional mobility schemes, including South-South.
- Specific issue of brain drain/circulation and of diaspora engagement.
- Placing education at the heart of the migration and development agenda.

Higher Education Governance

- Enhance enabling environments for international cooperation: financial autonomy, quality assurance, recognition, information,...
- Building capacities for international cooperation at institutional and at national level.
- Need to develop internationalization at home in the Southern Mediterranean countries both to attract and maintain competence.

Link with SDGs - *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG4)*



Index

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Three key activities to implement international cooperation

Regional Policy Dialogue

- Positive experiences in the region exist and can provide useful cases of what works and what doesn't.
- Need to improve knowledge-sharing, exchange of experience, build on the existing and increase synergies.
- Adopting a multi-stakeholder inclusive approach.

Peer-learning and networking activities

- Develop peer-learning in view of building capacity.
- Further support and amplify existing regional networks (of Universities and HEIs, of International Relations Officers, of Recognition Centers, ...).
- Better disseminate the information - on the main characteristics of the different higher education systems, on the training offer available, on existing mobility opportunities, etc.

Regional projects with structural impact

- Build on and replicate best practice.

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Challenges, Benefits and Risks

Regional Stability: a challenge, a benefit and a risk

- Crucial role of HE and Research international cooperation and of academic and research mobility.

Sustainability: a challenge, a benefit and a risk

- Sustainability of impact - How to ensure continuity of projects' results and transfer of competences?
- Limits of project-based funding for achieving transformative changes, upscaling and systemic replication.
- Increased synergies, innovative partnerships (local and national authorities, international organisations, private sector...) and effectiveness of resources need to be encouraged among existing and new financing instruments.

Ownership: a challenge, a benefit and a risk

- North-South Co-ownership
- Local ownership - Full involvement of HEIs reaching out to all territories.
- Youth ownership - Critical that young men and women be fully engaged in shaping policies at the national, regional and international levels.

Challenges, Benefits and Risks

Other Challenges

- How to expand from bilateral to regional cooperation?
- Diversity of HE systems in the region.
- South-South cooperation.
- Privatisation trends in HE.
- Lack of funding.

Other Benefits

- Benchmarking exercise from other regions of the world can bring new ideas to enhance regional integration amongst UfM countries.
- Link between Europe, Mediterranean and Africa: Southern Mediterranean Universities have a key role to play as interfaces between European and African universities.
- Importance of scientific diplomacy: building bridges between communities and countries.

Other Risks

- Need to take into consideration the crisis situation that some societies in the region are facing (conflict, higher education in emergencies, migration, etc.).
- Visa issues.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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