



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



The Higher Council for Science  
and Technology (HCST)



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Deutsche Gesellschaft  
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## Agenda

UfM Forum on Green innovation and careers for empowering the Mediterranean youth: Triple helix in action

Amman, 30-31 October 2022

Venue: Kempinski Hotel (Abdul Hamid Shouman Street)

The UfM is partnering with the Higher Council for Science and Technology, with the support of the German Development Cooperation, on a Forum hosted under the auspices of ESCWA, with the aim of exploring:

- **how government-academia-business cooperation is being advanced in the region,**
- **how innovation can support a green transition, and**
- **how to foster innovation, skills and employability to support Mediterranean citizens.**

## Background

With **45% of the population under the age of 25**, the Mediterranean is a young region whose potential needs to be fully exploited for achieving a double green and digital transitions. At the same time, economic, environmental, and social challenges are negatively affecting youth employment such as lack of innovation, inflation, environmental and climate changes, and disruption in global supply chains.

Knowledge and skills can offer solutions, by contributing to empower youth as agents of innovation, increasing the resilience and inclusive economic development of the Mediterranean region. This requires a closer integration of higher education institutions and research centres in sustainable development strategies, and drivers of integration across Mediterranean countries.

Additionally, ambitious agendas on sustainability need to take research and innovation all the more into account at a time of dramatic challenges to agrifood systems, energy supply and global health.

Governments, international organizations, and local stakeholders have since long worked to foster linkages across societal sectors, and close the gap between education at all levels, research and the needs of sustainable economic development, especially on careers, job opportunities and startup creation.



Dialogue between academia and industry has deepened, nevertheless more is needed to understand how to increase positive impact in the region. For instance, **32% of enterprises still indicate skills mismatch as a barrier to hiring.**

**Students, graduates, and researchers** must play a key role to reinforce national economies through the potential of the innovation-based sustainable economies, especially on food, renewable energy, water, digital, and green and blue economy.

This requires a higher degree of cooperation among sectors on skills, curricula, study paths, and crucially a dialogue with the private sector in order to support the role of academia in contributing towards the local development, far from a silos-approach, and **to create new partnerships.**

The **UfM Ministerial Conference on Research and Innovation (June 2022)** highlights the importance of “strengthening long-term regional cooperation through the creation of sustainable economies linking scientific and technological innovation with employment opportunities”. **This Forum will be an opportunity for peer-learning, qualified interactions and networking across the EuroMediterranean region** on the potential Research, innovation, and education to contribute to a double Mediterranean challenge: exploit the potential of the green, blue and circular economies from one side, and support youth employability.

*Master of Ceremonies: Giuseppe Provenzano, UfM*

## Programme

**30 October, 14:00-17:00**

### **Opening**

- Amb Alvaro Albacete, UfM Deputy Secretary General for Higher Education and Research
- Dr Abdullah Almusa, Secretary General, HCST
- Joeran Altenberg, Head of Portfolio Management Unit, GIZ Jordan

### **Keynote address**

- **Minister, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan [TBC]**

**Setting the scene:** Context and rationale for the meeting; the UfM initiative on Innovation and employability – Giuseppe Provenzano, UfM

### **Session 1: The triple helix ecosystem: positive examples and initiatives of academia-business-government interactions**

- Prof Abdelhamid El-Zoheiry, President, EMUNI
- Aravella Zachariou, Cyprus Ministry of Education
- Sergio Ponsá Salas, Interreg MED Green Growth
- Dr Carol Switzer, expert



### **Healthy break**

- Luigi Cavestro, CIHEAM
- Dr Mahmoud Abuhussein, HCST
- Nisreen Abu Anzeh, NAFES
- Bruno Boulnois, President, HOMERe France, Expert in academia-business interaction
- Rima Ras, Industrial Research and Development Support Fund

### *Tour de table: country representatives and projects.*

- Moderation: Giuseppe Provenzano, UfM
- Rapporteur: Boutheina Lassadi, employability expert

### **First day closing**

**20:00 Dinner** (*Hilton Hotel, Elia Abu Madi St.*)

## **31 October, 9:00 – 15:00**

### **Session 2: Green and Digital Innovation: Connecting economic development and sustainability. Green, blue, and circular economies being supported by R&I**

- Nabil Assaf, FAO Representative in Jordan
- Dr Omar Amawi, Deputy Director, PRIMA
- Heba Gaber, EEAS
- Elisaveta Kostova, GIZ Green Action in Enterprises (GAIN)
- Krystel Khalil, Berytech
- Takoua Mrabet, BUSINESSMED
- Sieglinde Grouber, BLUEMED (*video*)
- Maha Aqraa, National Center for Research and Development, HCST

### *Tour de table: country representatives and projects.*

- Moderation: Dr Hussam Khasawneh, Chairman, National Center for Innovation, HCST
- Rapporteur: Dr Mahmoud Abuhussein, HCST

### **Healthy break**

### **Session 3: Employability practices to join and replicate**

- Prof Amr Ezzat Salama, Secretary General, Association of Arab Universities
- Nathalie Bitar, Directrice Régionale Adjointe, Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie
- Sama Singer, Ain Shams University Career Center
- Fadel Labadi, Amman Chamber of Industry
- Olga Batran, Director, B-Hub
- TBC, Venture X
- Mohammed Jaafri, iPARK
- Naomi Rennaed, Action Against Hunger



*Tour de table: country representatives and projects.*

- Moderation: Silvia Marchionne, UNIMED
- Rapporteur: Dr. Naouel Abdellatif Mami, Vice-rector for external relations at University Setif 2

**12:30-14:00 Lunch break**

**Special rapporteur session and *tour de table* on next steps: what practical actions can be taken ?**

The three rapporteurs share the outcomes of the sessions, ideas on future action

**Closing**

- Amb. Alvaro Albacete, UfM
- Dr. Hussam Khasawneh, HCST

**National representatives and participants will be able to take the floor during the *tour de table***