



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GRANADA, 15-16 MARCH 2023

Hosted by the University of Granada



unimed



BOOSTING ACADEMIC ALLIANCES FOR PEACE AND SECURITY

Under the patronage of



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



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About the **UNIMED GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

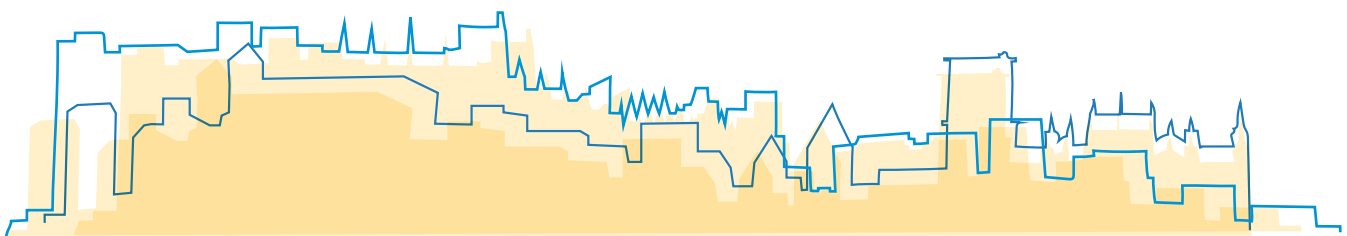
The UNIMED General Assembly represents an important yearly event where our rectors, presidents and their representatives meet to exchange views and to determine policy for UNIMED, setting the stage for a full and rich year of initiatives, activities and conferences that shape the academic calendar around the Mediterranean. At the same time, it is an opportunity to meet and to host our network with representatives of international organisations, government officials, students, influential contributors to the cultural and political spheres and representatives of NGOs.

The UNIMED Assembly will also have the ambitious goal of collecting indications and proposals in order to contribute to the final declaration of the first Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Higher Education that will take place in Morocco in November 2023.

Several topics are in the agenda, all of them in line with the regional priorities, such as the education for sustainable development, digital education, university governance, migration and also the need to boost the academic alliances for peace and security.

The Assembly is a two-day event, we welcome around 150 people from our member universities and institutional partnerships.

VENUE: University of Granada, ETS de Arquitectura, Campo del Príncipe, 18071 Granada



15
March
2023

WEDNESDAY

08:30 am – 09:30 am

Registration of participants

09:30 am – 10:30 am

Openings

Pilar Aranda Ramírez

Rector of the University of Granada

Francisco Matte Bon

UNIMED President and Rector of the International University of Rome

Hmaid Ben Aziza

UNIMED Secretary General

Dorothy Kelly

Vice-Rector for Internationalization of the University of Granada

Institutional representative of the Granada City Hall

10:30 am - 11:00 am

Keynote speech

The role of universities in preserving cultural heritage

Victor Jesús Medina Flórez

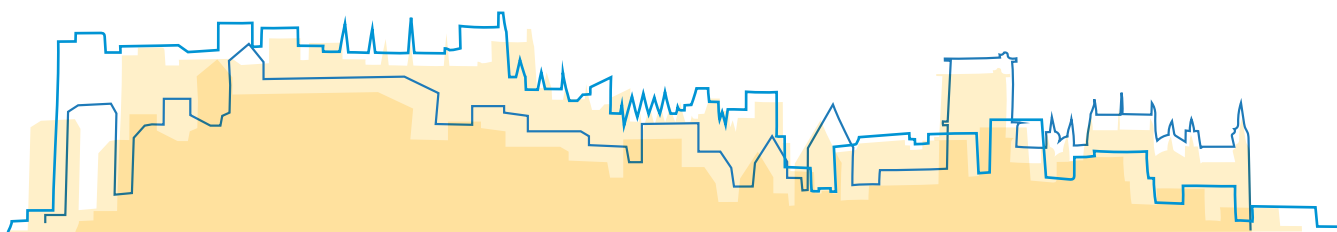
Vice-Rector for Outreach and Heritage of the University of Granada

11:00 am

Family Picture

11:05 am - 11:30 am

Coffee break and networking



Keynote speeches

11:30 am – 11:50 am

The policy context of the international cooperation on Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean (online)

Maria Cristina Russo

Director Global Approach & International Partnerships in R&I, European Commission

11:50 am – 12:10 pm

The Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Higher Education

Alvaro Albacete

Deputy Secretary General / Higher Education & Research of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

12:10 pm – 12:25 pm

A crucial time for European and global security and stability: a NATO perspective

Giovanni Romani

Head Middle East and North Africa, Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, NATO

12:25 pm – 12:40 pm

The roles and importance of Universities in the times of disasters

Mustafa Aydin

President of Istanbul Aydin University

12:40 pm - 12:55 pm

Outcomes from the 1st Mediterranean Students Summit

Juan Rayón Gonzales

President of Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

12:55 pm - 01:15 pm

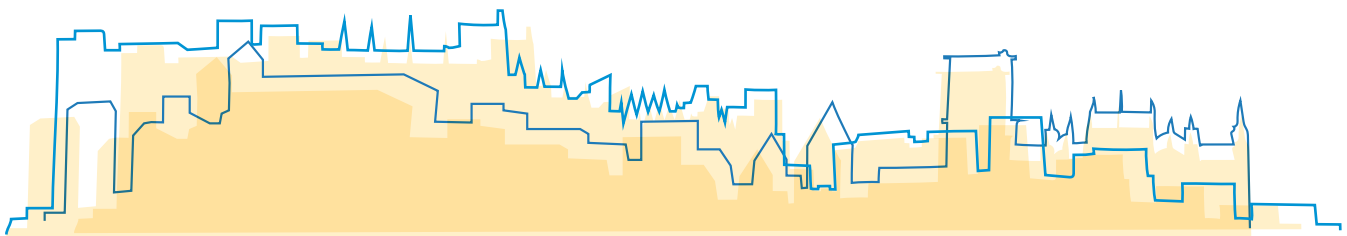
UNIMED activities and future plans

Marcello Scalisi

UNIMED Director

01:15 pm - 02:30 pm

Light lunch and networking



15
March
2023

02:30 pm - 03:45 pm

Parallel Sessions

Session A

Green Innovation and Employability in the Mediterranean Region (in collaboration with the Union for the Mediterranean)

Session B

Mediterranean Digital and Open Education: proposals for the Ministerial Conference declaration

03:45 pm – 05:00 pm

Parallel sessions

Session C

The Horizon Europe programme and the workplan 2023/24 for the Mediterranean Region (online)

The Erasmus+ Programme

Session D

The global dimension of the European University Alliances: opportunities for the Mediterranean partners

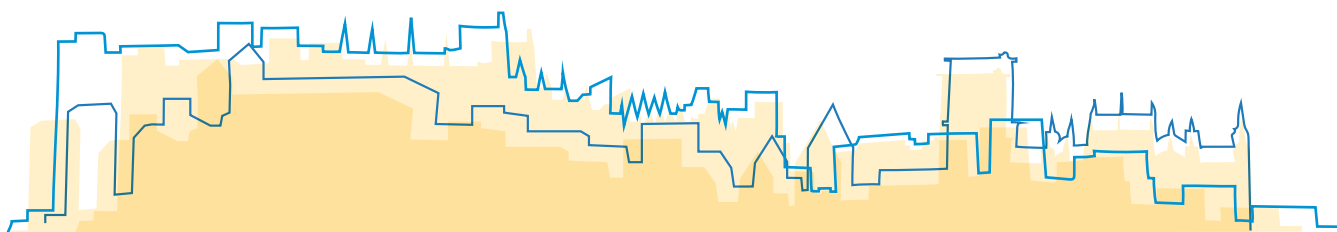
**Concert and Gala Dinner Venue: "Colegio Máximo de Cartuja" Building
Address: CAMPUS DE CARTUJA, S/N, 18011 GRANADA**

07:00 pm

Concert by members of the Orchestra of the University of Granada (Spanish repertoire)

08:00 pm

Gala dinner kindly offered by the University of Granada



16
March
2023

THURSDAY

09:00 am – 11:00 am

**UNIMED Assembly (only for members):
Election of the President, the Secretary General
and the Board of Directors members**

09:30 am – 01:30 pm

Start Cup Competition

11:00 am - 11:30 am

Coffee break and networking

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

**Good governance, Academic freedom and
University Autonomy in the MENA region:
proposals for the Ministerial Conference
declaration**

12:30 pm - 01:15 pm

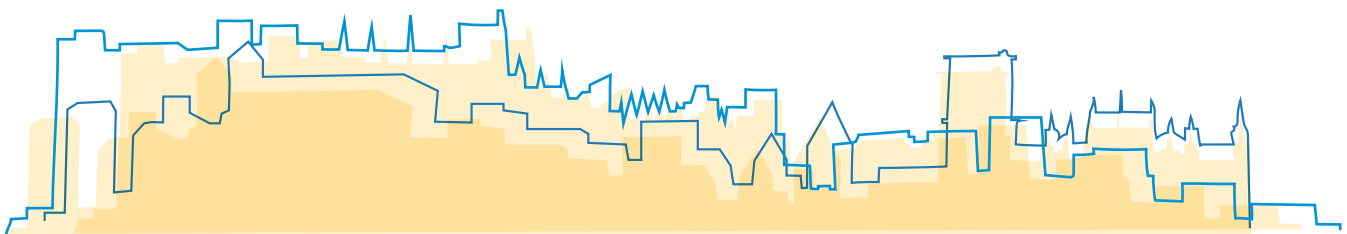
**UNIMED for Africa:
Conversation with Africa Europe Foundation
and All-Africa Students Union**

01:15 pm – 02:30 pm

Light lunch and networking

02:30 pm - 03:30 pm

**Showcase of UNIMED priorities and
conversations with UNIMED team**



16
March
2023

03:30 pm - 04:00 pm

Focus on: UNIMED papers

Presentation of the UNIMED manifesto for inclusion of migrants and refugees in Higher Education

The Syrian Higher Education System: which role for peacebuilding

Sponsored by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Students' attitudes in a changing Mediterranean

Sponsored by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Strategic Framework for the integration of Blended Mobility and Virtual Exchange in Higher Education Institutions

Co-funded by the Erasmus+

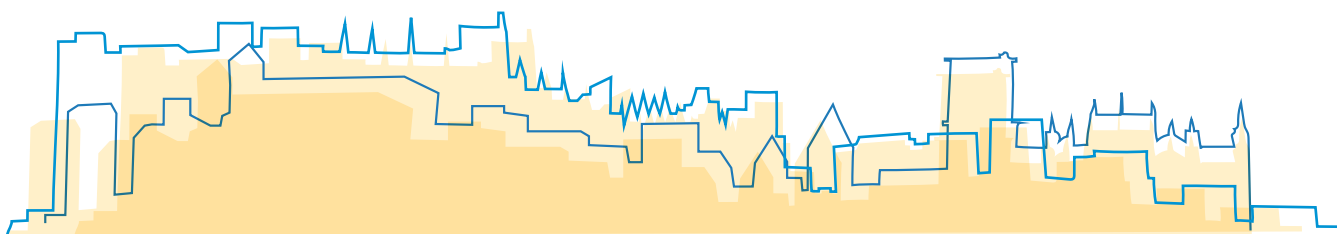
Programme of the European Union

04:00 pm - 04:15 pm

Announcement of the Start Cup Competition results

04:15 pm - 04:30 pm

Closing remarks by the new UNIMED elected President and the Secretary General



Detailed program 15 March

Green innovation and employability through the triple helix: good practices, challenges and perspectives in the Mediterranean region, organised in collaboration with the Union for the Mediterranean

Date: 15 March 02:30 pm – 03:45 pm

The workshop aims to present at regional level (Mediterranean area) the main practices, challenges, and perspectives with regards to the existing policies and instruments that facilitate access to employment of graduates and researchers in the Mediterranean region, highlighting how they could support the development of a sustainable economy through innovation and employability.

The workshop is organised within the framework of the Study that has been commissioned to UNIMED by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) on “**Green innovation and employability in the Med through the triple helix**” aimed to support UfM in analysing and evaluating strategies, policies, programmes and key projects in three pilot Med countries (Italy, Jordan and Tunisia) by assessing their socio-economic impact, gaps, and bottlenecks on innovating the economies and facilitating employment of young graduates, with the ultimate goal of supporting the shift towards sustainability through the triple helix model of innovation.

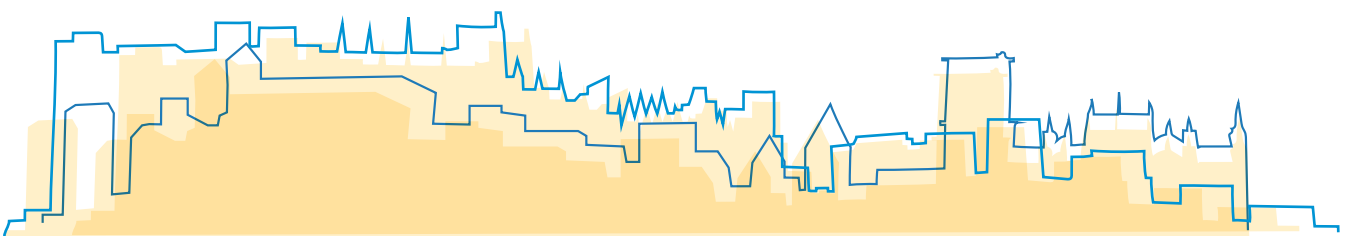
The workshop will tackle the following topics:

The complexity of the relationships between youth unemployment, quality of training and the uptake of the green economy;

Raising awareness about the importance of sustainable development choices which is constantly growing among the population, thus making sustainable practices an absolute political priority;

R&I agenda endorsed by the June 2022 Ministerial Declaration: Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Health;

Improving the growth of companies operating in the green economy area, both in terms of production, of consultancy and of design capabilities, to create the conditions for the increase of the number of green jobs;



Adapting the training and education systems in the target countries by reviewing curricula and teaching methodologies to match these with new employment opportunities and with the needs of the labour market.

Speakers

Alvaro Albacete, *Deputy Secretary General, Higher Education & Research of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)*

Silvia Marchionne, *Project Manager, UNIMED*

Romain Boitard, *Focal Point for Green Transition at the European Training Foundation (ETF)*

Moderator

Raniero Chelli, *Project Manager, UNIMED*

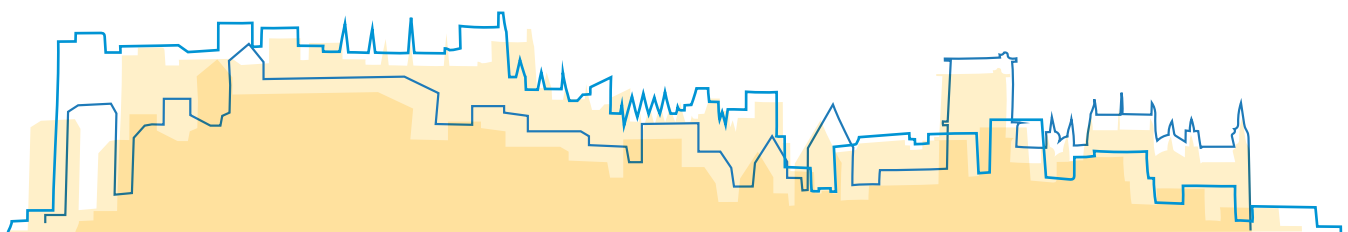
Mediterranean Digital and Open Education: proposals for the Ministerial Conference declaration, session by the UNIMED SubNetwork on eLearning and Open Education

Date: 15 March 2023 02:30 pm - 3:45 pm

There is a growing sense of being at a tipping point in Higher Education, a time of transformation driven by the increased use of digital technologies, and by multiple economic, political and environmental pressures as the main drivers of change for the new decade. When looking to the future, we envision universities that are innovative and engaged in society while retaining their core values. We envision them embracing Open Education as a way to widen access and participation to everyone by removing barriers and making learning accessible, abundant, and customisable for all.

Nevertheless, digital and Open Education in Higher Education is still seldom a widespread practice, and transitioning to digital education at scale is highly complex even in the best of circumstances. There is a need for a clear vision for and by universities taking a step towards digital transformation, for and by international cooperation among universities, how they want to develop, shape and respond to these challenges over this decade.

This workshop aims to explore the intersection of digital transformation and Open Education



in Higher Education, and it will focus on the vision, challenges and opportunities that digital and Open Education present for the region's educational systems, and on identifying key priorities for action in the region. Participants will discuss the vision which can guide future policies, strategies and initiatives in the region, and engage in discussions on how to harness the potential of digital and Open Education in order to create more inclusive and effective learning environments, as well as the role of regional cooperation in advancing digital and open education.

Speakers

Khalid Berrada, *Professor at Mohammed V University; ICESCO Chair in Open Education and Higher Education Reform Expert*

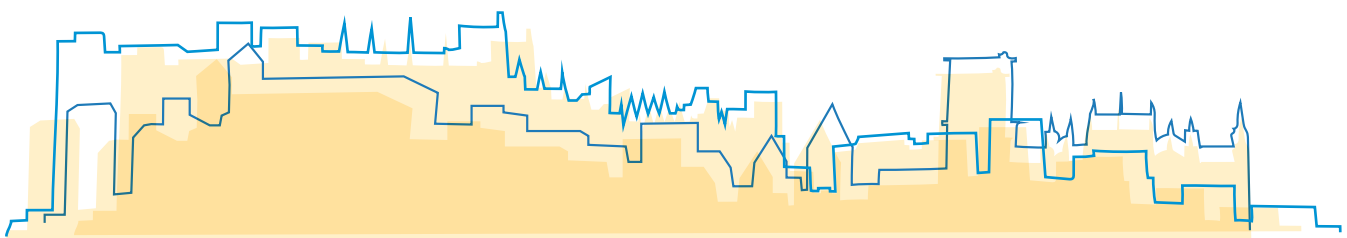
Cristina Stefanelli, *Project Manager, UNIMED*

The European Union programmes to improve cooperation in the Mediterranean Region: Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ programmes

Date: 15 March 03:45 pm – 05:00 pm

Education, research and innovation have an enormous transformational potential in our societies. Education and innovation systems, as the essential pillars for sustainable, inclusive and equitable societies, have a crucial role in promoting equal opportunities, equal access and build employability. Since the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Conference in 1995, the EU has stepped up its efforts to achieve our shared objectives of a common area of peace and stability, shared prosperity and social, cultural and human partnership. The international cooperation instruments made available by the EU have largely contributed to creating bridges among peoples and societies, reinforcing scientific dialogue, cultural cooperation, trust, and mutual understanding. EU instruments play a crucial role in building stable and effective relations among European and Southern Mediterranean countries, and education is central to the efforts of the European Union. Academic communities, students, faculty members, administrators, have benefited from a wide range of programmes promoting cooperation, mobility, research, capacity building. The activities undertaken by the Euro-Mediterranean academic community show the value of encouraging and supporting this work, while also seeking more synergies in the light of the current multifaceted dynamics and challenges.

UNIMED is strongly committed to playing a major role in the region, integrating and synergising



key initiatives in research, education, and innovation, as well as in supporting the political dialogue.

In this session, the impact and the opportunities offered by the two most important programmes of the European Commission that support international academic cooperation will be analysed: the Erasmus+ and the Horizon Europe.

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. In particular, the 2021-2027 programme places a strong focus on social inclusion, the green and digital transitions, promoting young people's participation in democratic life and it has an estimated budget which is nearly double the funding compared to its predecessor programme (2014-2020).

Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation. It facilitates collaboration and strengthens the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting and implementing EU policies while tackling global challenges. In particular, it tackles climate change, helps to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and boosts the EU's competitiveness and growth.

Speakers

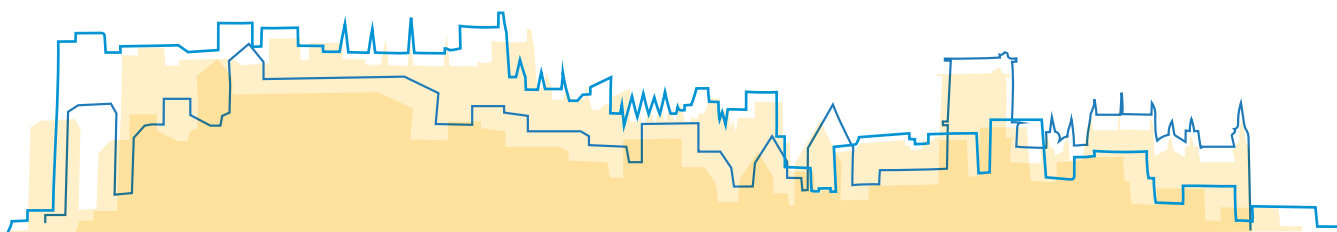
Alessandro Calabro, *Policy Officer, Global Approach & International Partnerships in R&I, European Commission (online)*

Loreta Paulauskaite, *Erasmus+ International Dimension contact point, Spanish National Agency-SEPIE*

The global dimension of the European University Alliances: opportunities for the Mediterranean partners

Date: 15 March 03:45 pm – 05:00 pm

The European University Initiative was launched in 2018 and has become a central element of the European Strategy for Universities as a driver of structural, systemic and sustainable transformation of the European university system. Although the initiative has initially addressed European universities belonging to the Erasmus+ programme (as principal funder of the initiative), it is increasingly clear that the global dimension of the alliances is important for their future and for the fulfilment of their mission.



In this session, three European University alliances present their vision of this initiative and how they envisage the role of global partners, in particular from the Southern Mediterranean, in their mission and work plans. The alliances are: Arqus, coordinated by the University of Granada, CHARM-EU, coordinated by the University of Barcelona, CIVIS, coordinated by the University of Aix-Marseille, and UNITE, coordinated by TU Darmstadt and in which the Polytechnic of Turin is a key partner.

Speakers

Dorothy Kelly, *Vice-Rector for Internationalization of the University of Granada*

Raul Ramos Lobo, *UNIMED Vice President and Vice President of the University of Barcelona*

Roberto Zanino, *Rector's delegate for PhD programs and university networks of the Polytechnic of Turin*

Detailed program 16 March

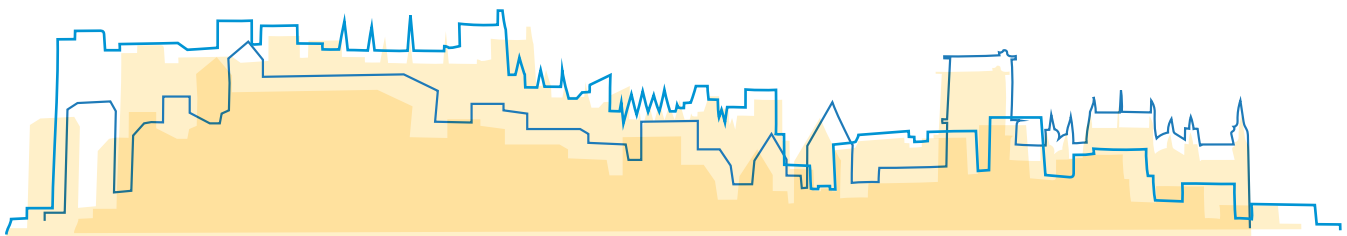
Start Cup Competition

Date: 16 March 09:30 am – 01:30 pm

The "Start Cup Competition 2023" is jointly organized by UNIMED and by the Lebanese University, coordinator of the UNIMED SubNetwork on Employability, with the collaboration of the University Agency of la Francophonie - Moyen Orient, the European Training Foundation (ETF) and the University of Granada.

This is the 4th edition of the "Start Cup Competition" which is a competition of entrepreneurial ideas developed by university students enrolled in one of the universities around the Mediterranean. This competition aims to encourage participating teams from universities on both shores of the Mediterranean to present innovative ideas in the field of entrepreneurship.

The "Start Cup Competition 2023" follows the Start Cup Competition 2022, 2021 and the RESUME 2018 First Edition which took place in Messina (Italy) as part of the [RESUME project](#) and is launched in the framework of the UNIMED SubNetwork on Employability.



Good governance, Academic freedom and University Autonomy in the MENA region: proposals for the Ministerial Conference declaration

Date: 16 March 11:30 am –12:30 pm

One of the key elements of the recent higher education reforms worldwide is university governance.

The concept describes how universities and higher education institutions define their goals, implement them, manage their institutions and monitor their achievements. In particular, in the discourse around governance, concepts such as autonomy, accountability and responsibility rise.

Autonomy concerns the relationship between the institution and the public authorities ruling the Higher Education sector. It measures how freely higher education institutions can take decisions within the regulations shaping each higher education system. Accountability refers to the capacity of each institution in being responsible and held responsible for decisions and actions. Along with autonomy and accountability, universities are demanded to take a stand in society and take responsibility for driving positive changes locally and globally. The path towards good governance is a long-lasting process, which requires a participative approach and the capacity of higher education institutions to adapt, learn, change and be responsive.

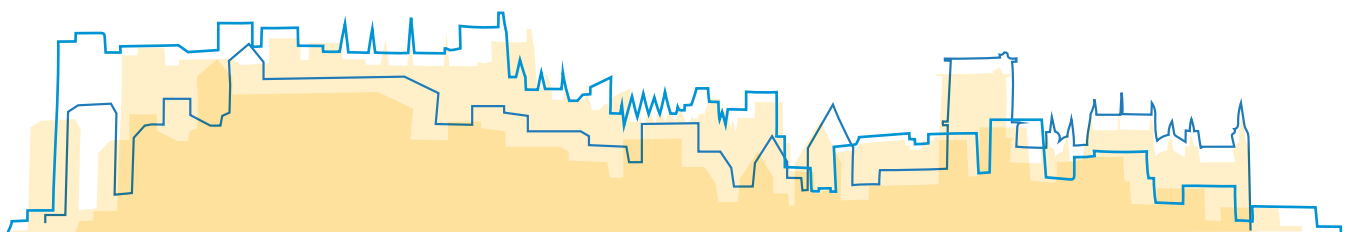
Projects and initiatives that highlight a liveliness both of the universities themselves as well as of the political context that assigns to higher education institutions a leading role in the advancement of the weak and fragile economies of the Middle East and North Africa region. Different systems of university governance and quality assurance are now the subject of reform: during this session, we will listen two emblematic cases of reform process, such as Algeria and Tunisia. In addition of these two cases, during the session we approach the concept of academic freedom listening a representative of Scholars at Risk that UNIMED recently joined as a member.

Speakers

Naouel Abdellatif Mami, *Vice-Rector for External Relations of the University of Sétif 2*

Abdelwahed Mokni, *President of the University of Sfax*

Miriam Alphonsus, *Program Assistant at Scholars at Risk*



UNIMED for Africa: Conversation with Africa Europe Foundation and All-Africa Students Union

Date: 16 March 12:30 pm – 01:15 pm

Africa is one of the areas where UNIMED is active to promote academic cooperation. UNIMED is working to involve in the network more countries from this region, in order to capture the opportunities for enlargement of the UNIMED's mission and vision in African countries and to identify thematic fields in which UNIMED can support further development of the Universities.

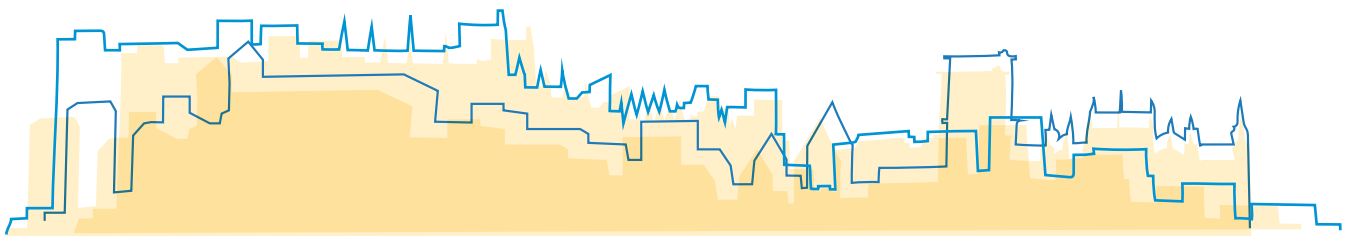
The objective is to fully integrate African universities into UNIMED at all levels, implementing a set of activities that will support the targeted universities in their internationalization and in their dialogue with the European Union. Moreover, the UNIMED's enlargement would increase the visibility of African universities at European level, but also to accelerate a regional cooperation process.

In this framework, this session is intended to deepen the discussion about student's empowerment and to launch opportunities for student mobility, including digital and virtual mobility.

UNIMED is eager to supporting students' engagement, promoting student summits, encouraging mutual invitation to events of common interest, fostering capacity building for students and student leaders, potential policy makers of the future.

Africa Europe Foundation aims to reset the relations between the two continents by building a true partnership and a vision for a shared future. Youth is a programming pillar, because the inclusion of young people in economic policy, governance, decision-making and meaningful and decent work is a priority on both continents. Youth participation, mobility, and employability are core values which associate Africa Europe Foundation with UNIMED.

The All-Africa Students Union is a leading organization in mobilizing, coordinating and involving African students to promote socio-economic, political and cultural changes in Africa. It is at the forefront of the fights for equal access to quality education, quality assurance in higher education, harmonization of higher education systems, academic mobility, democratic governance, gender equality, sustainable development, entrepreneurship, and academic freedom, among others.



Highest priorities are shared between UNIMED, Africa Europe Foundation, and All-Africa Students, and those will be fundamental driving forces to make a difference in the country.

Speakers

Andrzej Dabkowski, *Head of Programme Performance and Operations of the Africa-Europe Foundation*

Peter Kwasi Kodjie, *Secretary General of the All-Africa Students Union*

Showcase of UNIMED priorities and conversations with UNIMED team

Date: 16 March 02:30 pm – 03:30 pm

Over the past decade, the UNIMED team has worked on several thematic areas through a number of projects which have been approved and successfully pursued. The work done has allowed for a constant strengthening of the capacity of our association and our partners. In every initiative carried out, the participation of the UNIMED associated universities has been pivotal and this has enabled the strengthening of our network and consequently the strengthening of our associates themselves.

Therefore, this session will be dedicated to continuing the dialogue and the exchange between UNIMED members and some representatives of the UNIMED team. The research of new ways of collaboration, new initiatives and sources of funding finds its strength and richness in the ongoing exchange. UNIMED's potential is very large and it is up to all of us to try to seize the existing opportunities.

We will discuss the following topics in 5 parallel sessions:

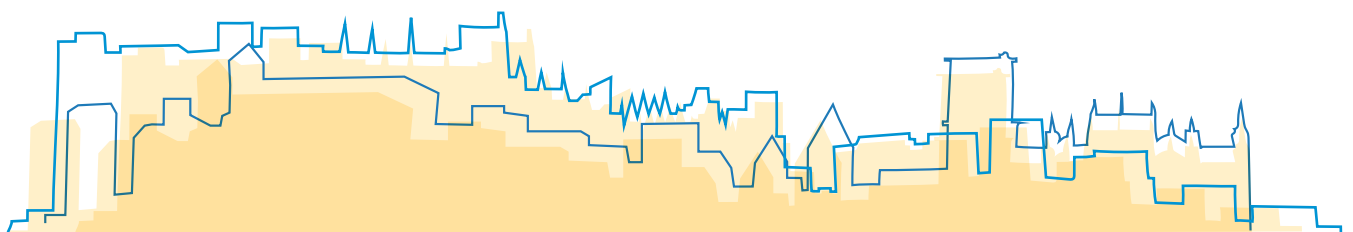
Digital Education

Employability

Mobility

Research

Students engagement



The image features a stylized graphic design. At the top, a yellow silhouette of a city skyline is set against a white background. A large, dark blue circle with a slight 3D effect is centered over the skyline, containing the word "unimed" in white, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below the skyline, a white outline map of the Mediterranean region is superimposed on a solid blue background. The bottom of the image is a solid light yellow band.

unimed

UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union

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