

The Future of Higher Education in the Mediterranean

The Student's Perspective



MSS
Mediterranean Student Summit
2023

Recommendations issued during the Summit held in
Tangier (Morocco), September 20-22, 2023

Why the Mediterranean Student Summit

The Mediterranean Student Summit is a new yearly initiative launched by the **Erasmus Student Network International** – ESN and **UNIMED** in 2022.

The **main goal** is to increase mutual awareness and understanding among students from the Mediterranean region and to support the development of competencies that help them to work together on societal challenges and to establish meaningful connections.

Our ambition is to give more space and to make students' voices heard in the UNIMED General Assembly and to convey students' recommendations to all stakeholders as a contribution for boo-

sting the Higher Education sector in the Mediterranean. After the pilot Edition held at the University of Barcelona premises, the Second Edition took place in September 2023 at **Abdelmalek Essaâdi University** in Morocco, gathering **23 students from 10 UNIMED countries** and welcoming for the first time students from Mauritania and representatives from All African Students Union – AASU.

The Mediterranean Student Summit is possible thanks to the financial contribution of UNIMED members and international stakeholders.

Countries represented

23 students from 10 UNIMED countries :

- 1 Egypt,
- 2 France,
- 2 Italy,
- 1 Lebanon,
- 2 Mauritania,
- 4 Morocco,
- 3 Palestine,
- 3 Spain,
- 3 Tunisia,
- 2 Turkey,

and 2 students from Ghana and Togo that joined the Summit as observers and representatives of All-Africa Students Union - AASU

By UNIMED and ESN and in collaboration with the Abdelmalek Essaadi University

With the financial support of the European Investment Bank Institute



Under the patronage of the Moroccan Ministry for Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation and of the Union for the Mediterranean



In partnership with the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)



10 Countries

3 Days of discussions,
presentations and
working groups

25 Students

6 Topics tackled

**Recommendations
to be brought to the 1st Union
for the Mediterranean Ministerial
Conference on Higher Education**

Main Challenges and Recommendations



Internationalisation

Challenges

- Lack of internationalisation culture
- Visa issue
- Cultural prejudices
- Lack of information on existing opportunities

Recommendations

- Increase HEI exchange programmes
- Creation of the “Erasmus visa”
- Support the creation of student and alumni associations
- Information and training for students and staff

Governance

Challenges

- Bureaucracy hurdle
- Unclear strategy for credit recognition
- Lack of clarity on the selection process

Recommendations

- Simplify procedures and encourage the use of digital tools and platforms
- Ensure credit recognition through a standardized ECTS system
- Universities are encouraged to define clear selection procedures, which ensure a selection that is transparent and fair

Inclusion

Challenges

- Cultural differences
- Financial barriers
- Lack of communication and linguistic problems

Recommendations

- Promote intercultural dialogue activities
- Increase funding opportunities and guarantee access to students from lower socio-economic backgrounds
- Encourage linguistic skills for all and ensure that multilingualism is viewed as an advantage rather than an obstacle

Main Challenges and Recommendations

Digital Education

Challenges

- Unorganised IT infrastructure and low digital literacy
- Few e-learning and peer exchange platforms

Recommendations

- Empower IT infrastructure and invest in digital tools
- Boost the use of e-platform and encourage Virtual mobility as complement (and not a substitute) for physical exchange

Greening/Sustainable Development

Challenges

- Lack of campus initiatives to foster a green mindset within the university

Recommendations

- Raise awareness through educational programs and campus initiatives
- Funding for student-led projects

Employability

Challenges

- Lack of and limited access to job opportunities
- Lack of transparency

Recommendations

- Strengthen University Career Offices
- Foster entrepreneurship through training



Unione delle Università del Mediterraneo
Mediterranean Universities Union
Union des Universités de la Méditerranée
إتحاد الجامعات المتوسطية

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