



## **UNIMED**

### **Mediterranean Universities Union**

**Unimed programs and activities:  
What we have done  
What we are going to do**

**“University network:  
opportunities and strategies”  
Barcelona, 14/03/13**

## **UNIMED Foundation**



**1991:** Establishment of the Mediterranean Universities Union, formed of 24 Universities.

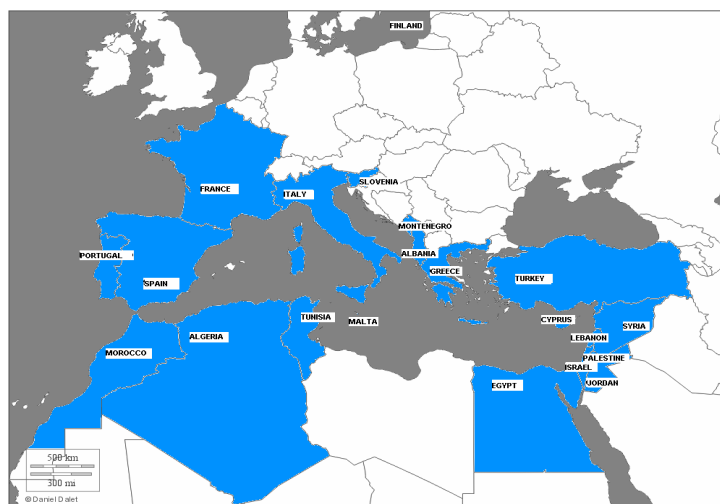
**2012:** Network of **79 Universities** of **21 countries** in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

## UNIMED Offices

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- **Head Office:** Palazzo Baleani, Rome, Italy
  
- **Regional Offices:**
  - An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine
  - University of Salento, Lecce, Italy
  - Opening Soon:
    - Cairo and Algiers

## UNIMED Member States



## UNIMED Board



- **President:** Prof. Domenico Laforgia - Rector of Salento University, Italy
- **Vice-President:** Prof. Hossam Mohamed Kamel - President of Cairo University (Egypt)
- **Secretary General:** Prof. Franco Rizzi
- **Executive Director:** Dr. Marcello Scalisi
- **General Assembly:** Rectors (or their delegates) of UNIMED associated Universities

## UNIMED main objective



UNIMED aims at promoting,  
in a multidisciplinary perspective,  
interuniversity research and education...

- **...in order to contribute to the integration process between the two Mediterranean shores.**

## Why establishing networks among the universities of the Mediterranean shores

Because Universities:

- ✓ contributes towards knowledge of social processes
- ✓ trains future leaders and opinion makers
- ✓ cooperates in economic development through research structures
- ✓ guarantees Euro-Mediterranean integration

UNIMED carries out the following activities in favour of the associated Universities:

- Promotion of the **international dimension of universities**;
- **Planning and fund raising activity: information on call for papers and opportunities offered by international and European organizations, partnership search, technical assistance, planning; dissemination;**
- Promotion of **mobility in the Euro-Mediterranean region, for students, researchers and academic staff**;
- Organization of **meetings, discussions, seminars and round tables both at a national and international level**;
- Training for academic and administrative staff of Universities, particularly for the personnel of **International Relations Offices**.

## UNIMED principal Activities



- 1. Political and Institutional Activities**
- 2. European, National and Regional Projects**
- 3. Thematic Sub-Networks**

### 1. Political and Institutional Activities



- ✓ **Collaboration Agreement with the IEB**
- ✓ **Collaboration with UfM for LOGISMEDTA project**
- ✓ **Petition to EU for the Adoption of an Erasmus program for Mediterranean students.**
- ✓ **UNIMED STUDENTS FORUM**

## Agreement with the IEB

### ➤ **May 2007: Memorandum of Understanding between UNIMED and the European Investment Bank (EIB)**

- The Agreement has been established within the framework of the “EIB University Networks”, a partnership system of the EIB Group with universities, whose main priorities are:
- Euro-Mediterranean regional cooperation; cooperation between countries of the Eastern and countries of the Southern shore of the Mediterranean;
- Environmental protection and sustainable development;
- Protection and valorisation of Euro-Mediterranean cultural heritage;
- Social policy, especially regarding public health and occupation.

## **SIGN Written Declaration 15** Euro-Med Erasmus and Leonardo programs



- ◆ To support the Arab democratic spring
- ◆ To build a new Euro-Mediterranean partnership
- ◆ To fight youth unemployment

We call for the setting-up of :

- Euro-Med "Erasmus" program aimed at promoting transnational mobility of students from both shores
- Euro-Med "Leonardo da Vinci" program aimed at promoting mobility of youngsters willing to get professional training abroad



C. PREDÀ



F. BRANTNER



V. PEILLON



F. CASTEX



I. VAJGL

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## First UNIMED Students Forum



UNIMED, in collaboration with the Aydin University, hold in Istanbul from 15th to 17th July 2012 the 1st Forum of UNIMED-Students.

More than sixty students from associated universities of Italy, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Spain, Greece, Cyprus, Finland and Turkey have discussed the issue of mobility and the new European Commission's program, ERASMUS FOR ALL, which will enter into force in 2014 and will finally be opened to non-European students.

## First UNIMED Students Forum



Students discussed the issues related to academic mobility in the Mediterranean region with the aim of contributing to form a new "MEDITERRANEAN GENERATION" in order to:

- break down physical, ideological and religious barriers which could prevent people to meeting each other,
- promote students and researchers travel
- pursue new job opportunities, to develop a sense of belonging to a multicultural space as the Mediterranean basin fostering the dream of a Mediterranean exchanges, meetings and collaboration.

## First UNIMED Students Forum RESULTS



Students have drafted a joint document that was approved during the Plenary Assembly and submitted to the European Commission. The document stressed the necessity and urgency to strengthen the students mobility in the Mediterranean region and particularly to improve the following aspects:

1. New opportunities for Mediterranean students ensuring at least 10.000 Erasmus grants per year to students from the Southern Mediterranean;
2. Visa barriers designing an ad hoc package of visa for university students of the Mediterranean region in order to expedite visa granting procedures, making full use of the opportunities offered by the EU Visa Code;
3. To integrate the “Erasmus student charter” with the following point: To guarantee a **“special legal status” for students** studying abroad in order to ensure respect of their own religion, culture, traditions and personal convictions.

## 2. European, National and Regional Programmes: some examples



- ✓ **TEMPUS**
- ✓ **ENPI** – European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument
- ✓ **IPA** – Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
- ✓ **7<sup>th</sup> FP** - 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme
- ✓ **Erasmus Mundus** - External Cooperation
- ✓ **EuropeAid**



### 3. Thematic Sub-Networks

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➤ During the last few years, UNIMED has also supported the establishment of a second-level network, constituted by *subnetworks* focused on certain specific sectors.

- The *subnetworks* intend to create a database of research centers, university departments, ongoing projects and researches, and also ongoing partnership in the selected fields.
- The aim is to strengthen the economic and social cohesion, in order to promote, on the one side, cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation and, on the other side, local sustainable development.
- Through the *subnetworks* activities, it is possible to increase the cooperation among the Euro-Mediterranean universities, promote the development and harmonization of the educational systems, in order to encourage, among others, the Bologna Process.

### 3. Thematic Sub-Networks

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Currently UNIMED has the following sub-networks:

- ✓ **Transports, Logistics, Intermodality**
- ✓ **Renewable Energies and Environment**
- ✓ **Intangible Cultural Heritage**
- ✓ **Mediterranean Tourism**

## UNIMED role to ensure Universities cooperation



- ▶ **UNIMED supports the mobility of students and university's staff** within different Countries, for the **development of scientific and educational cooperation**, and generally encourages the comprehension among peoples. Such a structure also lays the foundation for the institution of a Mediterranean University "without walls", where, in collaboration with the professors of the two shores, the teaching moves in order to satisfy the regional education needs.
  
- ▶ Since the beginning of its activity, UNIMED promoted and was in charge of:
  - **22 MEDCAMPUS** projects, assuring the mobility of about 1.000 students and 500 professors, dealing with different issues: economics, new technologies, environment, history, agriculture, cultural heritage, tourism and sustainable energies.
  - **1 Europeaid regional project**: UNIMED Cultural Heritage II (21 partners) aimed at implementing the cooperation among the Mediterranean countries, facilitating know-how exchange, so as to protect and enhance the EuroMediterranean Cultural Heritage.
  - **8 TEMPUS MEDA** Projects for the economic and social development of Southern shore countries involving about 250 students and 40 professors.

## UNIMED current projects



**FP7-INCO-2012-2: MOBILISE— MOrocco and the EU: strengthening Bilateral Links in Innovation and Science for Economy**

**TEMPUS: PRO-GREEN: Joint/Dual Professional Graduate Diploma and Professional Degree in Green Technologies (Libanon and Egypt)**

**FP7 Capacity FP7- INCO-2012-1, INCO-NET MEDSPRING Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & INnovation Gateway (Regional Project)**

**EMA3 Project: Linking-MED-GULF**

**ERASMUS MUNDUS Action 2 – Project WELCOME (Lead Partner Politecnico of Turin)**

Thank you!

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