



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



Support for the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

## Virtual stakeholder event – Concept note

26 October 2021, 09:00 – 13:00 CEST

### Background Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

The [Union for the Mediterranean \(UfM\)](#) is an intergovernmental institution bringing together all EU countries and 15 countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean to promote dialogue and cooperation. Relations centre on six main areas and include research.

The **UfM Regional Platform in Research and Innovation** was created in 1995 within the framework of the Barcelona process to monitor and promote cooperation in research, technology and development. The platform has been mandated to make recommendations for the joint implementation of research policy priorities and is an important bi-regional platform for political dialogue, bringing together the EU Member States and all Mediterranean partner countries.

During the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean Regional Platform on Research and Innovation (R&I) in June 2020 the importance of mutual R&I cooperation development of the Euro-Mediterranean was acknowledged. It set the stage for the creation of an **expert group** to examine and make proposals for the implementation of regional strategic priorities on **health, renewable energy and climate change** specially related to crisis/natural disaster risk management encompassing. During the meeting, it was agreed that these priorities should be presented in relation to crosscutting topics, like, space and earth observation, smart specialisation, artificial intelligence, social sciences or eco-innovation in addition to the cross-cutting domains set out in the strategic paper; digitalisation, open science, human capital development and technology transfer and innovation as well as higher education.

The UfM R&I-expert group's overall objective is to support stimulating the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in research and innovation (R&I) through collecting; managing and communicating knowledge as well as coordinating collaboration processes upon request by the UfM regional platform in R&I, including multi-stakeholder consultations, e.g. with civil society actors, feeding into an Implementation Plan.

To learn more about the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, visit [https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/europe-world/international-cooperation/mediterranean\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/europe-world/international-cooperation/mediterranean_en).

UfM Stakeholder Event

## Objective

Underpinning the importance of mutual R&I cooperation development, the objective of the event is to share with and receive feedback from invited stakeholders regarding the draft Implementation Plan to support the newly endorsed UfM agendas on research and innovation contributing to the new EU communication on Renewed Partnership in the region.

The event will be framed by a plenary session as well as by three separate breakout rooms with thematic focusses on the identified priorities: 1. health, 2. renewable energy, and 3. climate change. In the course of the sessions, open discussions with the participants on the Implementation Plan modalities as well as on modalities and actions for implementation of the TCIP (Theory of Change and Impact Pathways), including the roadmaps in the priority areas will be generated.

## Highlights

Shared challenges in the priority areas, health, renewable energy and climate change, are highlighting the need of global exchange in R&I and, thus, the importance of mutual cooperation. With mutual cooperation in the priority areas and the Theories of Change and Impact Pathways (TCIP) instruments the following will be achieved:

- Health: The cooperation as well as the implementation will lead to more healthy, resilient, inclusive and secure Euro-Mediterranean societies.
- Renewable Energies (RE): The cooperation and implementation will generate an overview of RE scenarios, a harmonised RE smart database and communication within the UfM Commission. Further outcomes will include the modernisation of electric power systems as well as the modernisation of the distribution system and the development of advanced technologies.
- Climate Change: The cooperation and implementation will have a significant impact regarding water scarcity and drought in rural areas. Moreover, it will support a sustainable agricultural production and protect biodiversity in changing climate.

Furthermore, the cooperation will support future capacity building activities as well as future research and innovation in the priority areas.

## Participation

The event is expected to bring together a wide range of stakeholders from relevant research areas in Health, Renewable Energy and Climate Change to other actors like consumers, end-users, representatives of civil society (NGOs), SMEs, youths, innovators as well as other public and private actors in the respective fields, including decision makers and R&I funding agencies.