The Future of Higher Education in the Mediterranean
The Student’s Perspective

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

Why the Mediterranean Student Summit

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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
25 Students

10 Countries

6 Topics tackled

3 Days of discussions, presentations and working groups

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
## 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
MSS
Mediterranean Student Summit
2023

ESN
Erasmus Student Network