

Call for application

Mediterranean Student Summit

By UNIMED and ESN, with the support of the University of Barcelona

UNIMED and the Erasmus Student Network, with the support of the University of Barcelona, will organise the first Mediterranean student event, an initiative that seeks to bring together Higher Education students from both shores of the Mediterranean to foster intercultural dialogue and work together on common challenges. This pilot initiative will pave the way for the establishment of an annual project focusing on student engagement and intercultural dialogue with students from UNIMED Universities.

The Mediterranean student event

UNIMED and ESN want to turn the Mediterranean student event into a yearly initiative that gradually grows in size and scope. For this first "pilot" edition, the organisations are planning a small-scale event, building on ESN's expertise in organising training and capacity building events for young people from diverse backgrounds and nationalities.

The pilot initiative of the event will gather 40 students from UNIMED member Universities and around 5 facilitators that will guide the discussions. It will take place in the Mediterranean city of Barcelona, organised with the support of the University of Barcelona, one of the best Universities in Spain and a European reference in aspects such as research and international cooperation. It will also count on the patronage of the Union for the Mediterranean.

The **content** of the event will revolve around three interlinked themes:

- **Improving intercultural dialogue and student-led internationalisation in the Mediterranean.** Within this theme, the student will discuss topics such as: How can we bring students from different corners of the Mediterranean together? What is the role of the students to establish long-lasting connections that benefit the whole academic community? What are the demands for University leadership and decision makers?

- **The creation of a Mediterranean Erasmus Generation: how to connect the region through student mobility and international friendship.** As part of this block, participants will discuss how we can boost mobility opportunities between the two shores of the Mediterranean, and also within South Mediterranean countries: do we need a new mobility programme? What makes a mobility experience impactful? How can we convince others to take part?
- **Building the University of the future in the Mediterranean.** In this block, students will discuss which kind of University they would like to see in the future, and which actions are needed to get there.

Objectives and expected outcomes

The general objective of the event 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.

The specific objectives are:

- Come up with specific ideas in the key themes of the event and discuss them with University leadership, international organisations and other key stakeholders.
- Increase the awareness among participants of existing opportunities such as International Credit Mobilities, and turn them into multipliers that can support others.
- Build foundations and gather impressions from the participants on their needs and expectations to build long-term collaborations beyond the event.
- Foster the participation of students in international networks and international initiatives.

When & where

Barcelona, on the 2nd and 3rd of November, 2022

Target audience

The target audience is mainly Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility alumni (or alumni from other international mobility opportunities) and representatives from student organisations that can have a multiplier effect and reach out to others.

Working language

For this edition, the working language will be English. Candidates must have a good understanding/expression of English. No language certificate is required for the application but a good command of this language is mandatory.

Preliminary selection

For this pilot initiative, we kindly ask UNIMED associates to proceed with the first selection phase, targeting students who can have a positive and multiplier impact inside the university.

Each university is required to send at least two students' candidatures for the final selection.

Application procedure

UNIMED universities are invited to request from their students the 2 following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae
- A personal contribution/reflection on the Mediterranean community and the role that students can play for strengthening the internationalisation of their university. Students are invited to use the following guiding questions when preparing their applications:
 - Why would you like to be a participant in the first ever Mediterranean Student Summit? What do you feel you can contribute?
 - How have your international experiences abroad changed your perspective? What have you learned from your international experiences?
 - What is your vision for the Mediterranean Erasmus Generation? When you think of students from all across the Mediterranean collaborating together, learning from each other and exchanging ideas?
 - Why is it important to connect young people from the countries across the Mediterranean?
 - **Please try to stay below 2 pages**

UNIMED universities are invited to send the candidatures to:

unimed@uni-med.net and liaison@esn.org indicating in the object: Mediterranean Students Summit applications

Final selection and evaluation process

A selection committee composed with members of UNIMED and ESN will analyse and proceed to final selection of applications regarding the following criteria:

- Relevance/pertinence of the personal contribution
- Geographical balance between both shores of the Mediterranean
- Gender balance
- Balance between the scientific disciplines
- Candidate's personal experience

Deadline for submission

In order to arrange all logistical aspects (including visa procedures), UNIMED associates are kindly asked to send the candidatures before **11th of September**.

The selection committee will be held during the week of **12th September**.