

Joining education pathways in the Mediterranean region



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ETF Skills Lab Network of Experts Webinar
"Vocational education pathways in higher education in the SEMED region"
18 November 2024

A double challenge for Higher Education Institutions


The Mediterranean is a young and talented region.

Despite this, two structural challenges loom large: **youth unemployment** and the **just transition**.

They are interconnected as YOUTH holds the keys for changing the Mediterranean, if opportunities and skills are made available.

 **32%** of enterprises in some Southern Mediterranean countries have identified labour skill levels as a major constraint to hiring

From **15%** to **32%** of young people (15-24 years old) in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries are NEET's.

 **25%** of unemployment rates among higher education graduates in Arab countries of North Africa

The UfM region counts over **30M** university students

By 2030, gross enrolment rates in higher education are foreseen to rise up to **40%**

A UfM Initiative on Innovation-Employability

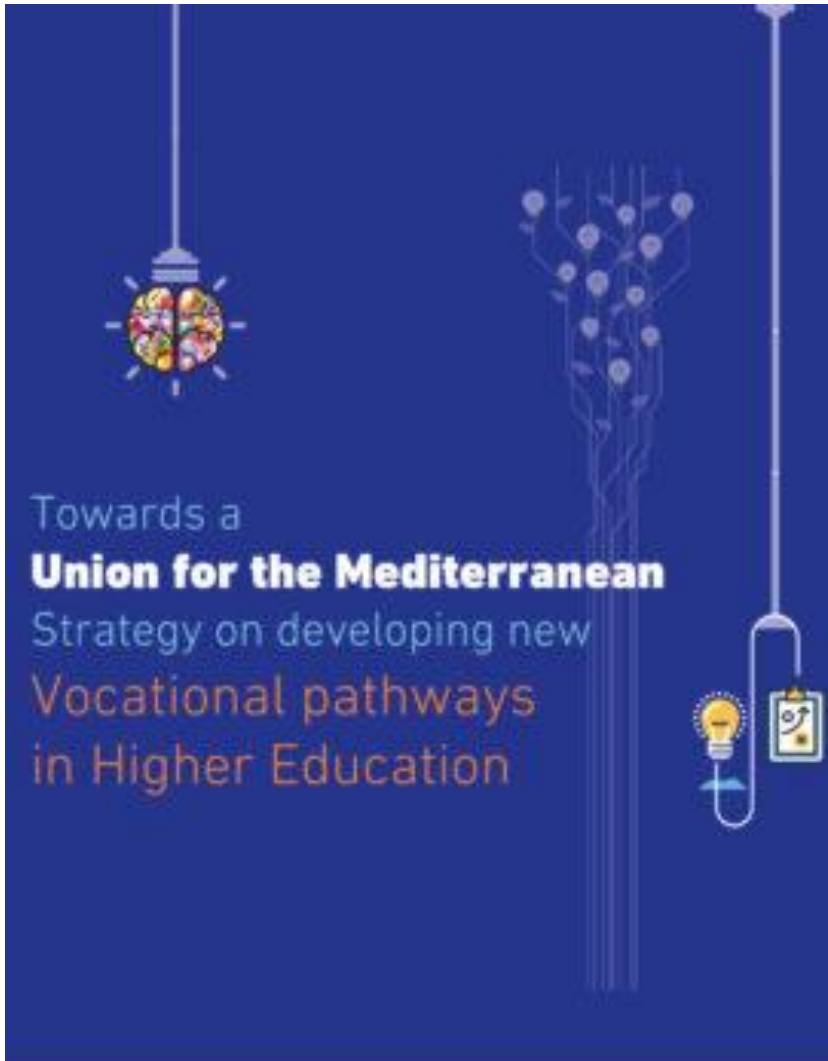


- Learning spaces are key for innovating the Mediterranean economies and for employing its students and researchers
- Green/blue/inclusive economy is a field where technology can make the difference towards its sustainability
- UfM is focusing on facilitating the discussion among academia, private sector and government: triple/quintuple helix

What we learned

- Importance of investment in **youth and in capacity buildings** of HEIs
- Triple helix of innovation as a lens through which ensure the involvement of all actors to solve the “wicked problem” -> **moving to quintuple helix** in order to support SDGs and green transitions
- **Regional dialogue is an opportunity** to discuss the region priorities about tackling youth and women employment and skills development through a sustainable collaboration between HE and VET.
- Importance for the government to provide the framework conditions for both academia and industry to address societal issues

Huge opportunities if these efforts are connected with the green economy



Key recommendations on HE-VET collaboration, including a Proposed Pilot Project: “Greening the South Mediterranean Region: Promoting Green Skills Through Post-Secondary Vocational Pathways”.

- Promote LLL and encourage upskilling and reskilling of both youth and adults
- Address skills development to reduce skill mismatch
- Promote career guidance and entrepreneurship
- Encourage collaboration between educational institutions and the private sector
- Address enabling environment for public stakeholders/institutions

Competences for the green transition can be a testcase (green skills)



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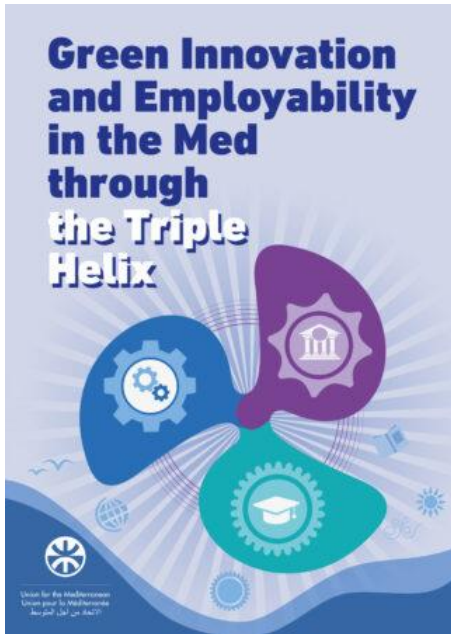
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Implemented by



State of the initiative



Green innovation: A study on the pipeline between education/research and business sector

Two regional workshops on including **Green Skills in Academic Curricula**

unimed

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Workshop on green skills in the Mediterranean: Education and research for sustainable food systems



CIHEAM
ZARAGOZA

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Zaragoza, Spain
1 Feb 2024

Workshop for academia, industry, civil
society organisations, and
policymakers



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WORKSHOP ON GREEN SKILLS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN:

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY



 **Algiers, Algeria**
 12 & 13 June 2024

In-person workshop for academia,
 industry, civil society organisations, and
 policymakers





Synthetic publication

- Outlines the macro-level environment around the **just transition and green skills**.
 - from planetary boundaries to Mediterranean employment perspectives.
- Aims to build a common understanding for **transformative action in higher education and research**.
 - Research from Paeradigms and ETF.
 - Examples from experts and participants.
- Synthesises results from the **collective knowledge and expertise** of workshop hosts and participants.
 - CIHEAM Zaragoza.
 - Algerian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS).



INTEGRATING GREEN SKILLS INTO EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES AND
RESEARCH CENTRES





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Contents

Contributors	4
List of tables and figures	5
Abbreviations	8
Foreword by UfM	9
1 Introduction	11
1.1 Scope	11
1.2 Purpose	11
2 Rationale for greening HER	12
2.1 Planetary boundaries and the doughnut	12
2.2 Rethinking the SDGs considering new sustainability concepts	13
2.3 European Green Deal (EGD)	14
2.4 Values and attitudes in green competences	14
2.5 Regional context	15
2.6 Intersection of sustainability, education, and labour markets	15
3 Frameworks and models	17
3.1 Just transition	19
3.2 Quintuple helix	19
3.3 Typologies of green competencies and green skills	20
3.4 Greening higher education and research	21
3.5 Open Innovation	24
4 Findings from the workshops	25
4.1 Findings: teaching and learning groups	27
4.2 Findings: research groups	29
4.3 Findings: industry groups	32
4.4 Findings: government groups	34
5 Feature projects	38
6 Outlook	44
7 Resources	45
8 Partners	49
9 References	51



Outlook

- **Strengthen strategic foresight**

Shift focus outward to monitor trends and stay competitive in an increasingly fast-changing world.

- **Anticipate emerging skill needs**

Collaborate with policymakers and industry to integrate sustainability into core activities, preparing graduates for the future and maintaining institutional relevance.

- **Make your own organisation "green"**

Break down internal silos, adopt a unified approach to sustainability, and prioritise green innovation and education across all departments.