



unimed

Unione delle Università del Mediterraneo  
Mediterranean Universities Union  
Union des Universités de la Méditerranée  
إتحاد الجامعات المتوسطية

# ETF Skills Lab Network of Experts Webinar

**"Vocational education pathways in higher education in the SEMED region"**

Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat and UNIMED perspectives on opportunities and challenges for improved pathways from TVET to HE

SILVIA MARCHIONNE, UNIMED PROJECT MANAGER  
18 NOVEMBER 2024

# UNIMED SUBNETWORK ON EMPLOYABILITY

- Initiated by the RESUME project
- Coordinated by Lebanese University and UNIMED
- Launched in Oct 2018
- 28 institutions from 14 countries



## Areas of Work

Skills development and employment,  
Role university in employability  
Entrepreneurship mindset  
Ecopreneuriat and sustainability  
Green innovation and employability  
Sustainable development and employability  
Development and training for career centre staff  
Vocational training  
Microcredentials

## Activities:

- Mapping
- Exchange
- Capacity building
- Research
- Networking and promotion



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



# 1. Improving the dialogue between universities, vocational training centres and industries

- Strengthening **university governance** (autonomy, available means, etc.) to encourage the accomplishment of the **third mission** of the university and to institutionalized in the organigramme the career centre
- It is necessary to provide SMEs with relevant tools to **anticipate market expectations**.
- Involve the media in the **dissemination** of existing content and services for employability of graduated and youth
- **Internationalization**: Sharing and enlarging the initiative of Erasmus+ traineeship to support internships, work experiences, apprenticeships abroad for students of master's and doctoral students in SEMED countries.

## 2. Better articulation of public policies on Higher Education and Vocational Training

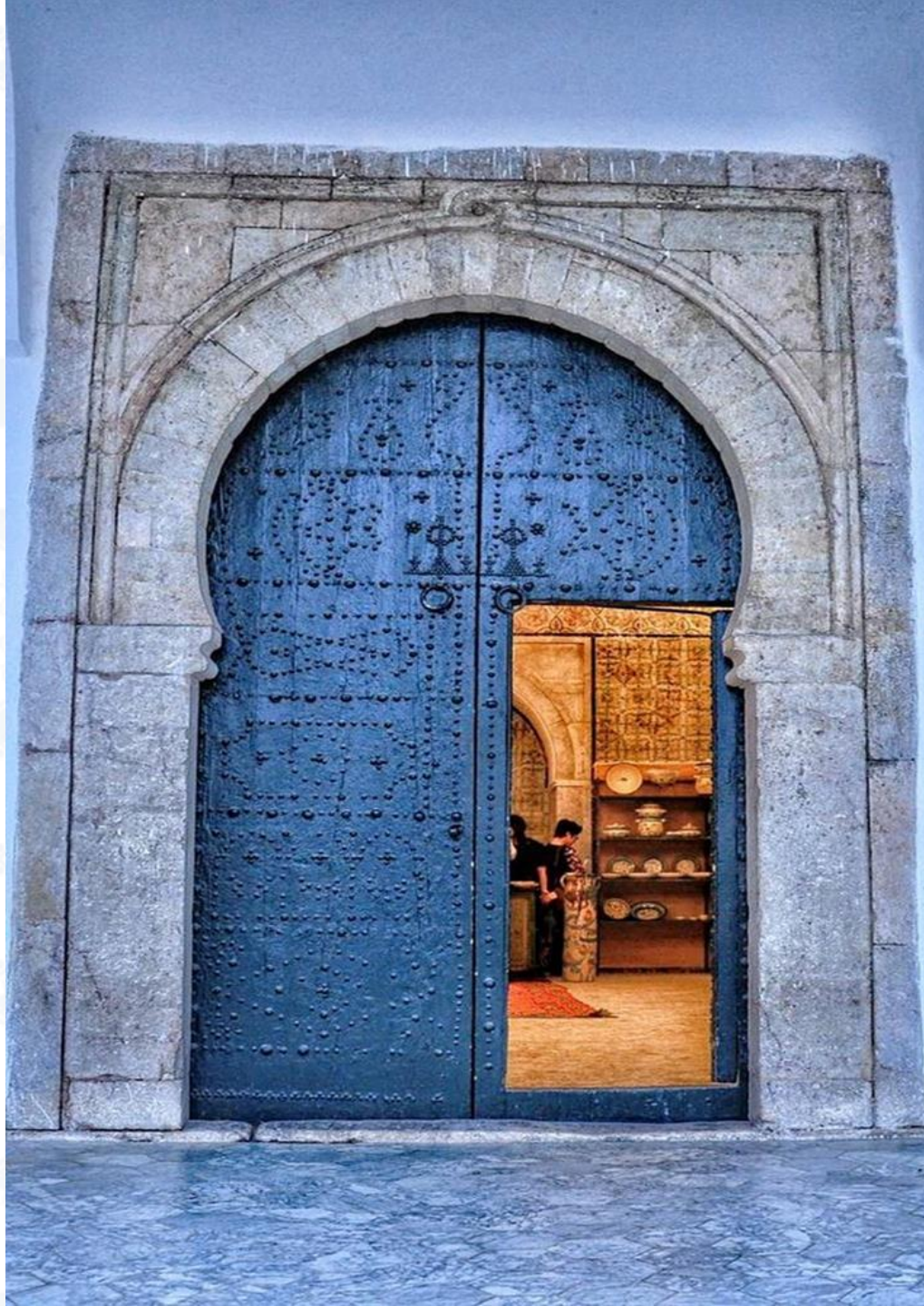
unimed

- This is a major challenge in the region: **Strengthening the cooperation between relevant ministries** which implies changes in governance and the evolution of existing institutional frameworks
- The **analysis of skills needed** in the labor market is essential and the role of observatories of labor market developments is crucial
- Revision of **national qualifications frameworks** is important to facilitate employment, competitiveness and relations with the labor market but also access to higher education and TVET throughout the life



### 3. Engaging in a multi-stakeholder regional dialogue to respond to the challenge of youth employability

- **Fragmentation issue:** The Mediterranean region can count on many regional projects devoted to the improvement of employability of young people tackling HE and VET which are isolated, fragmented.
- It is need to favour a **more integrated approach** associating all the actors of the chain of values (governments, training organizations, employers, donors) and targeting the governance (reforms), the redefinition of the role and missions of the actors of training and industry sector, scaling up existing projects and initiatives.
- **The UfM has indeed an important role as a hub to create synergies between all existing projects and initiatives**



# Examples of pathways between TVET and HE: flexible, inclusive and sustainable learning opportunities

unimed

## **Greening education:**

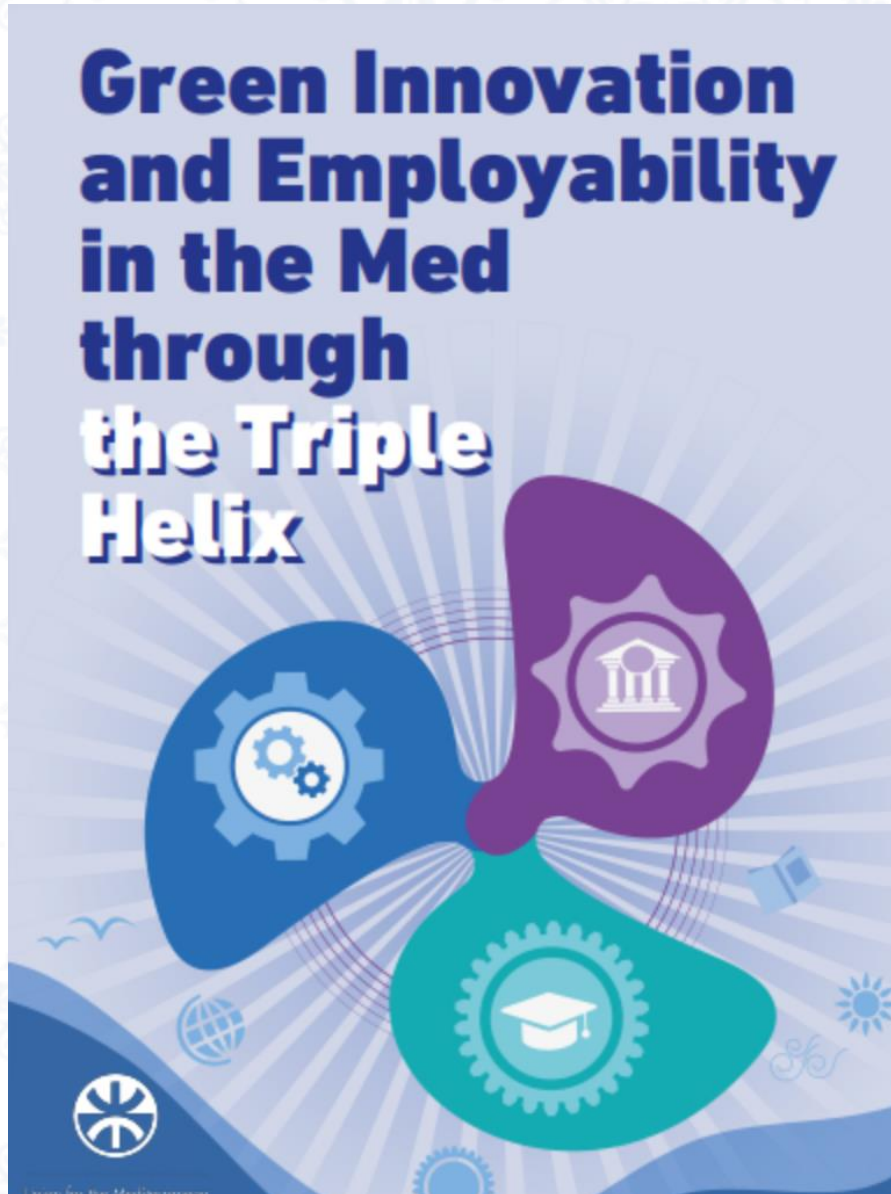
Providing with green skills and curricula towards a more sustainable development (green transition)

**Entrepreneurship:** VET and HE shall collaborate to address social problems such as unemployment and social exclusion through social enterprises generating social impact

**Career guidance and development support system review:** to develop the capacity of individuals to manage their careers.

unimed

# Green Innovation and Employability in the Med through the Triple Helix



Study launched in  
February 2024 in three  
piloting countries:  
Tunisia, Jordan and  
Italy

A study commissioned by



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



The UfM Secretariat  
is co-funded by the  
EUROPEAN UNION

Produced by



Unione delle Università del Mediterraneo  
Mediterranean Universities Union  
Union des Universités de la Méditerranée  
اتحاد الجامعات المتوسطية

With the support of



german  
cooperation  
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

giz  
giz - German Engineering Group  
for International  
Cooperation (GIZ) GmbH

## The rationale behind...



unimed

Universities are responsible actors in their societies because they are directly involved in generating new knowledge and because they teach and form young people to become leaders, entrepreneurs, scientists, professionals and responsible citizens

SDG 4 “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”, but also SDG 8.6 “Reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (NEETs)”.

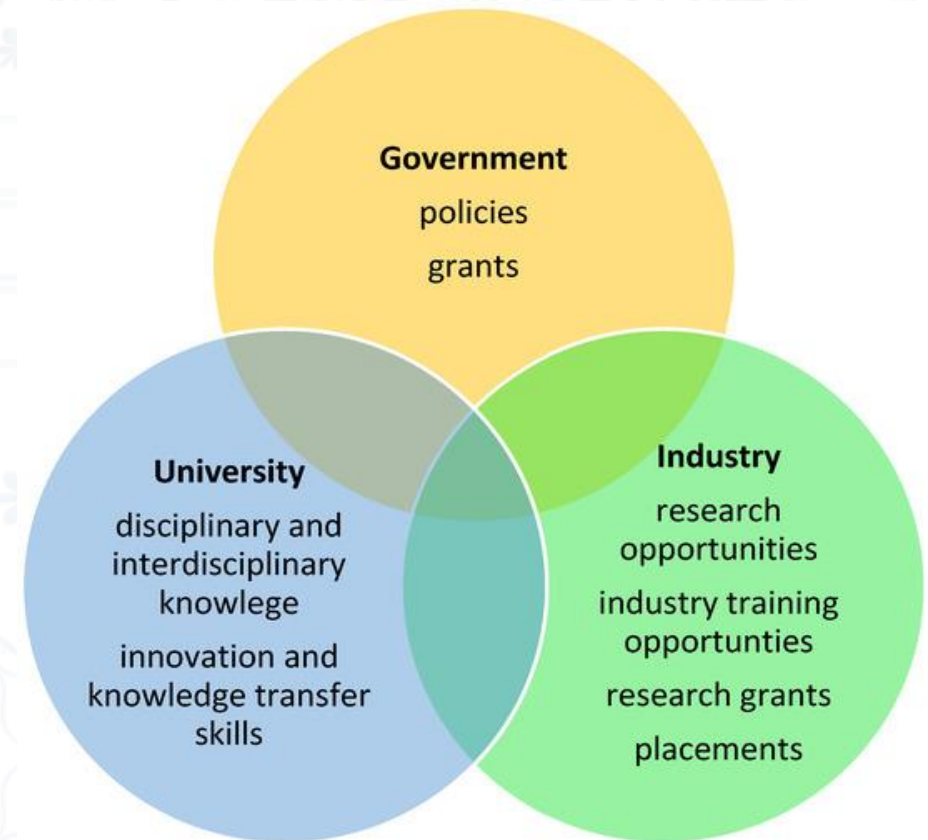




## Triple Helix Model of Innovation

---

## The approach of the Study



# The Objectives of the Study:

unimed

1) Analyzing and evaluating strategies, policies, programmes and key projects of three pilot Med countries (Italy, Tunisia & Jordan);



2) Supporting the shift towards green (sustainable) economy sectors by increasing appropriate skills, updating curricula, through linkage with private sector, innovation and technology transfers;



3) Developing specific sets of recommendations at national and regional level for supporting the shift towards sustainability through the triple helix

## Methodology:

Desk research

Stakeholders mapping

30 Interviews + 3 Roundtables (Rome, Amman, Tunis)

SWOT ANALYSIS

## Main Challenges

unimed

**Limited funding** for research  
Collaboration **academia-industry-government** very weak, problem of mutual trust  
Brain drain  
**Mismatch in qualifications** that do not correspond to the needs of enterprises and the weakness of the absorptive capacity of higher education and public sector  
**Limited accountability** and autonomy of research institutions  
**Resistance to change** in higher education teaching mechanisms  
**Lack of networking and partnership** among stakeholders

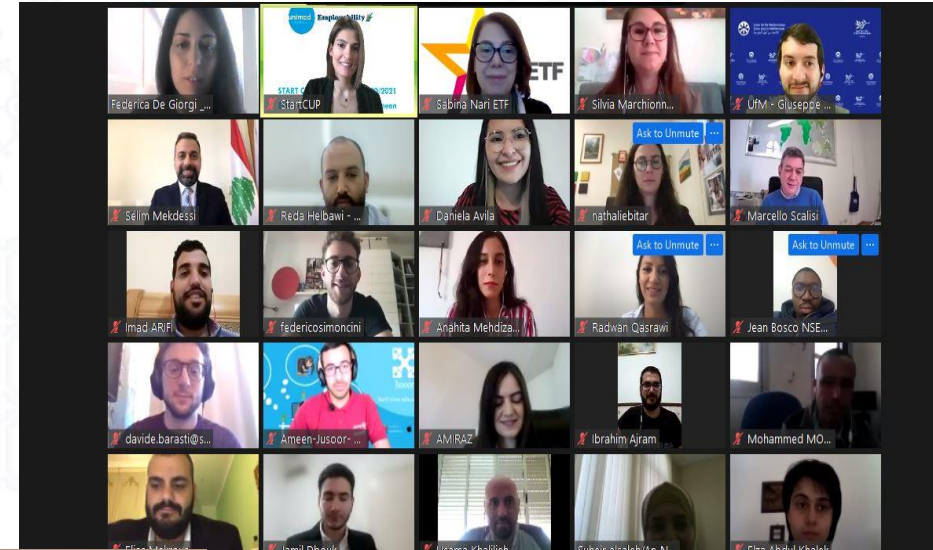
## Key Recommendations

**Regional platform** for best innovation-employability that could facilitate networking among the universities starting from the three target countries (Jordan, Tunisia and Italy) by sharing knowledge, good practices, and know-how on green transition  
Setting up of a **Network of Mediterranean Incubators and start-ups** should be envisioned  
Adopting **industrial doctorates** not only at the national but also at the regional level  
**Capacity building** and training activities (online and face-to-face)  
**Regional conference** on green education

# Youth engagement and entrepreneurship



**START CUP**  
**COMPETITION**



**START CUP COMPETITION 2024**

# ETF-UNIMED career guidance system reviews in Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia

unimed

THE ETF SUPPORTS THE ROLL OUT OF THE **REGIONAL PROGRAMME ON YOUNG NEETS** IN SOUTH EAST MED.

SINCE **CAREER GUIDANCE** IS A **CORE ELEMENT** OF THE PREVENTIVE AND REACTIVE MEASURES OF “**YOUTH GUARANTEE**” APPROACHES, **UNIMED**

SUPPORTED **ETF** IN 2024 IN CONDUCTING **REVIEWS OF CAREER GUIDANCE SYSTEMS** IN SEMED COUNTRIES TO INFORM THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME

Reviews done in partnership with **UNIMED**, **ETF** and the **UNIMED SubNetwork** on employability

**UNIMED member universities** have led on conducting the reviews, in close partnership with **ETF**.

# ETF-UNIMED career guidance system reviews in Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia

unimed

**Improved skills in review of policies and services** in the area of career guidance in the education, employment, social inclusion and youth sectors

Career education and guidance **to reduce mismatch increases** smooth transitions to further learning and work, and research even shows better salaries

Lifelong perspective  
CG lies at the heart of  
LLL systems

**Role of CG is different** in countries with jobless growth and limited decent work opportunities

Career education and guidance **to prevent** dropouts, increase educational attainment, increase learning motivation

Some integration of career education and guidance into schools, VET and universities; some training for career guidance practitioners; tools and methodologies for guidance work somehow in place; some use of ICT for CG



unimed

## Follow us



[www.uni-med.net](http://www.uni-med.net)



[Newsletter](#)



[Podcast](#)



[UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union](#)



[UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union](#)



[unimed network](#)



[UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union](#)



**UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union**

Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, 244 – 00186, Rome (Italy)



[s.marchionne@uni-med.net](mailto:s.marchionne@uni-med.net)

**Thank you for your attention!**

*Silvia Marchionne, UNIMED Project Manager | [s.marchionne@uni-med.net](mailto:s.marchionne@uni-med.net)*



