

NET MED

YOUTH

CREATING THE FUTURE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

WHAT IS NET-MED YOUTH ABOUT?



European Union

- **Networks of Mediterranean Youth (NET-MED Youth)** is a three-year project (2014-2017) implemented by UNESCO and funded by the European Union (8.8 million EUR).

- The project covers 10 southern Mediterranean countries: **Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia**. It is aimed at providing young women and men from civil society youth organizations with skills to take part in decision-making and public policy planning in their countries. It also promotes youth's self-expression through media and seeks to enhance their economic inclusion and access to the labour market.

- The project was initiated as the youth in the South Mediterranean region face issues among which under-representation in policy design and mainstream media, high unemployment, as well as rising threats of violent extremism.

- The event organized in Brussels on 19 September aims to provide young participants with a forum to take stock of the achievements and progress over these past 3 years, while looking ahead to the next challenges that NET-MED Youth can help them tackle.

WHAT HAVE
WE ACHIEVED
SO FAR?

- A unique partnership between UNESCO and the EU, NET-MED YOUTH led to the emergence of a structured and powerful network of more than 150 young men and women from 10 southern Mediterranean countries.
- For over 3 years, these young people have been trained, coached, connected, put in contact with the local and European political elites, researchers, experts and media outlets, and supported in developing influential strategies as well as tools to reform public policies at national and local level.
- These young leaders are active in emerging civil society organizations that have been set up since the 2011 uprisings. They are credible actors, leaders-to be, and necessary to build and pacify the Mediterranean area.
- Today, they act as unique and innovative networks, which are expected to grow as a permanent think-tank within the Mediterranean area.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN FIGURES



PARTICIPATION

150
active members

50% women
7 national Youth Networks



- 7 national Ministries of Youth have officially engaged.
- Over 4000 representatives of youth organizations connected and trained.
- 3 national large youth coalitions initiated and consolidated (Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia), 3 others being duplicated (Israel, Morocco, Palestine).

TRAINING



30+ national seminars

and regional workshops on youth policies

- 110+ workshops and events focused on freedom of expression and media reaching over 1,300 beneficiaries.
- 17 national thematic workshops in 7 countries with youth and stakeholders around anticipation of future skills required for youth.

NETWORKING

- 50+ regional and international exchange opportunities involving more than 300+ NET-MED Youth participants, European youth stakeholders and global actors.
- 50+ outreach actions connecting young network members with 100+ media outlets.

7
Employment Expert Teams

set up nationally



INSIGHT



10
gender-sensitive in-depth studies

on youth organizations produced in 8 countries

- 2 participatory youth-led regional studies produced on youth online engagement and participation.

- 4 national youth-led media monitoring reports produced, soon to be systematized into a sub-regional study; and 3 national surveys on youth and media implemented (+2 in process).
- 5 skills forecasting exercises completed.

COMMUNICATION



NET-MED Youth reaching a niche youth audience of over

77k people on Facebook,

most of whom are 18-35 years old and from the Mediterranean region.

- Pool of 50 young writers who contribute to the creation and dissemination of content about the project.
- Communication campaigns in 8 countries to promote youth participation in civil society in 8 countries to promote youth participation in civil society.
- New: 8 new films featuring young beneficiaries launched during the 19 September event in Brussels.

TOP 3 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- 14 specialized youth consultation workshops bringing together 200 participants from West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza.
- Data analyzed and Strategic Action Plan formulated by young people and youth stakeholders.
- Strategy endorsed for 2017-2022 by the Ministry of Youth.
- NET-MED Youth members joining the newly established national Advisory Committee.
- Whiteboards, large communication and advocacy campaigns raising awareness of youth participation and calling for support to the implementation of the policy.



Launch of a new national Youth Policy

Ramallah, June 2017



Cultural heritage and identity: an Arab youth perspective

Tunis, March 2017

- Brought together 80 young culture activists, heritage professionals, media, local authorities and experts from 15 countries.
- Set-up 10 operational recommendations to engage young people in the protection and promotion of endangered cultural heritage, foster economic growth, social cohesion and intercultural dialogue.
- 4 projects on creative youth-led cultural heritage safeguarding implemented in 2 pilot countries (Morocco, Tunisia).
- A follow-up and monitoring regional capacity-building workshop on youth volunteerism and partnership development, consolidated the network of youth Arab NGOs active in the promotion of cultural heritage.
- NET-MED Youth activities supporting the international UNESCO campaign #Unite4Heritage.

- First community radio that obtained a temporary FM frequency in Morocco.
- 200+ news reports and 48 news bulletins in Arabic, Amazigh, English and French produced by 18 young journalists from 9 countries in the Middle East and Africa.
- Live for 90 hours. Targeted the 50,000+ COP22 delegates and the residents of the Marrakesh-Tensift-El Haouz region in Morocco. Streamed online for rebroadcasting by community radios in 18+ countries across 4 continents.
- Set up in partnership with the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters, Forum des Alternatives Maroc/e-Jousour and the COP22 Civil Society Coordinating Committee. Also supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.



"Climate Radio" during COP22

Marrakesh, November 2016

WHY THEY SUPPORT THE PROJECT



“ Thanks to the NET-MED Youth trainings and networking, I’ve learnt that every NGO needs a media strategy that goes beyond promotion. We need to transmit quality information, to prepare future generations with critical analysis skills to use media in an optimal and efficient way. ”

- Meriem, Algeria, NET-MED Youth member

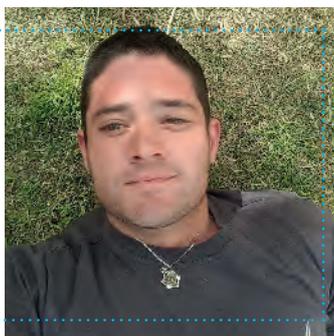


“ We are now certain that the optimism and activism of youth is the key to a more tolerant, peaceful world. ”

- Rind, Lebanon, NET-MED Youth member

“ I and other NET-MED Youth members from other countries found the common denominators that would help us work together. ”

- Gil, Israel, NET-MED Youth member



“ All around the Mediterranean, we need to empower young women and men to speak out, act and lead, to find solutions to pressing challenges and build a more just, inclusive and sustainable tomorrow. The NET-MED Youth partnership between UNESCO and the European Union is breaking new ground to support young people as partners and positive change-makers across the region.

Over the past 3 years, this has enabled networking and cooperation between youth civil society organizations and stakeholders, it has helped revise and shape public policies and dialogue, it has enhanced the representation of young people in media, while strengthening youth employability skills. ”

- Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General

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