Conference

The EU Neighbourhood Policy and Mediterranean Youth
The Key Role of Training and Mobility

Instruments of the EU, regional good practices, operational proposals

Venue: Sapienza University of Rome, Dipartimento di Odontostomologia, piano terra, Via Caserta 6, 00161- Rome

Date: September 30th - October 1st, 2014

Coordination: UNIMED, French Embassy in Italy/French Institute of Italy, Sapienza University of Rome

Rationale

At a time when serious economic and political crises are affecting the Mediterranean region and the Middle East, it becomes every day more urgent to support concrete debates among academic, cultural and political institutions on the definition of the EU’s policies towards the Mediterranean and, at the same time, to encourage political initiatives towards Europe on the part of institutions from the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Although political and economic crises, and the tensions they generate, must be solved by political and economic solutions, these solutions must be formulated by societies that have had some experience of regional integration and that are convinced of its benefits. Euro-Mediterranean academic policies can contribute to this process in two main ways:

On the one hand, by optimising the use of the instruments for cooperation, in particular with respect to training and mobility, which the EU has developed in the framework of its neighbourhood policy. As a new budget cycle (2014 -2020) has started this year, the time is now propitious to take stock of these instruments and of their application to the Southern neighbourhood, in order to evaluate their performance and whether they fill quantitative and qualitative needs with regard to this region. And, as the first results and tendencies become known, no time should be lost in offering potential improvements nor in rethinking the existing instruments in view of the next budget cycle and, perhaps, of a specific programming for the Southern Neighbourhood that would address its needs frontally.

On the other hand, as crisis and conflict situations in the region seem more and more deadlocked or desperate, it is increasingly up to Universities to offer a new vision of political, cultural, academic and scientific cooperation in the Mediterranean/Middle Eastern region. The University is not only an old and central institution in this region and the main site of training for its young generations, which now find themselves in the center of the social, political and economic
debates, it is also a dynamic focus of soft diplomacy. The University must therefore not only be a beneficiary or an implementer but also an inventor of cooperation policies.

This conference therefore proposes a broad-spectrum political reflection on the two following issues: 1) the performance of academic cooperation, mobility and training in the Euro-Mediterranean region, and 2) the integration of the region, as imagined by its universities. The overarching goal of the event is to bring real and tangible support to the young Mediterranean generation which, from Tunis to Madrid, from Cairo to Paris, from Gaza to Lisbon, from Rabat to Athens, from Ramallah to Rome and from Tel Aviv to Barcelona, invites us to rethink the social, economic and political models of all Mediterranean countries, both in the North and in the South.

**Topic**

The conference, involving specialists and decision-makers from Europe and its Southern Neighborhood, will seek to address the following topics:

- The EU’s Neighbourhood Policy strategy and its implementation: first results and tendencies of the new tools for mobility (Erasmus +) in the Mediterranean area, cooperation in the field of higher education; bilateral and regional dimensions of European cooperation;
- The role of universities in helping the EU and the governments of South Mediterranean countries to devise new policies for the Mediterranean;
- Academic cooperation in research and training;
- Development of South-South university cooperation;
- Mobility of students, academics, administrative and technical staff;
- Rethinking mobility: new perspectives? South to South? North to South? Brain drain, brain gain?
- Training and the labor market: the importance of placement
Programme – 30th September 2014

9.00 – 9.30 AM Registration

9.30 – 10.00 AM Introduction and welcome addresses
- Stefania Giannini – Italian Minister of Education, Universities and Research
- Catherine Colonna – French Ambassador to Italy
- Domenico Laforgia – UNIMED President
- Luigi Frati – Rector of Sapienza University of Rome

10.00 – 10.15 AM Opening speech by Franco Rizzi – UNIMED Secretary General: “Towards a Mediterranean Erasmus Programme”

10.15 – 10.30 AM Presentation of UNIMED Report on university mobility in the Mediterranean: trends, needs and experience

10.30 – 1.30 PM University mobility in the Mediterranean – Erasmus+ (2014-2020)

Chair: Marcello Scalisi - UNIMED Executive Director
- Marco Mancini* - Head of Department for Universities and Research - MIUR, Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research
- MENESR*, French Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research
- Sultan Abu-Orabi - Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities (AArU): “The new mobility programme for the Mediterranean”
- Claire Herrmann – Policy Officer-Southern Mediterranean countries, in Unit C4 "Cooperation and International Programmes; Jean Monnet": "The possibilities offered by Erasmus+ to strengthen EU-Mediterranean University cooperation"
- Christine Clerici - President of Paris Diderot University: “Franco-Italian Joint Master degrees: opportunities, challenges and perspectives”
- Hmaid Ben Aziza – President of Tunis University: “The Erasmus mobility in the Mediterranean: challenges and opportunities”
- Luciano Saso – Deputy Rector for International Mobility – Sapienza University of Rome: “The Erasmus mobility in the Mediterranean: challenges and opportunities”

01.30 – 03.00 PM Lunch and networking
03.00 –05.30 PM  Parallel sessions

**Parallel Session A:** University training, vocational training and labour market - Closing the gap between training and job placement

Chair: **Artur Schmitt** - Director for International Networks and Projects - University of Granada

- **Antoine Godbert** - Director Agence 2e2f: "The Euro-Med Mobilities Platform: promoting mobility and cooperation in the Mediterranean"
- **Guillaume Huet** – Head of the Territorial Cooperation Service, Direction of Mediterranean and International Relations, PACA - Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region: "Interregional cooperation"
- **Flavia Palanza** - Director of FEMIP - Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership - EIB – European Investment Bank
- **Nina Arnhold** – Senior Education Specialist - The World Bank/CMI: “The World Bank/CMI MENA University Governance Programme”
- **ASCAME** - Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry

**Parallel Session B:** Food as a framework for research, education and technology transfer: Developing a Mediterranean model based on PROSIT project best practices

Chair: **Lorenzo Maria Donini** – Director of the Specialized School on Food and Nutritional Sciences - Sapienza University of Rome

- **Patrizia Brigidi** - University of Bologna
- **Francesco Galli** - University of Perugia, UNIMED
- **Representative from company Molini Spigadoro**
- **Representative from company Molitoria Umbra**

* To be confirmed

Working languages will be English and French
Programme – 1st October 2014

09.30 – 01.30 PM Bilateral and regional academic cooperation between the EU and Southern Mediterranean countries

Chair: Benoit Tadié - Attaché for academic cooperation, French Embassy in Italy

- Union for the Mediterranean*
- Anna Catte* - Director General, ENPICBCMED Joint Managing Authority
- Mostapha Bousmina* - President of the Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes: “The involvement of university stakeholders in defining priorities”
- Albert Lourde - Rector of Senghor University of Alexandria: “The Mediterranean cooperation of Senghor University: an instrument in the service of development”
- Attilio Mastino - Rector of the University of Sassari: “Archaeology in Maghreb: the importance of universities and cultural heritage institutions in promoting training and research”
- Mourad Ezzine - Manager for the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI): “Economics transitions in the Mediterranean: Study conclusions and recommendations”
- Claudio Bogliotti - Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAIB)- MEDSPRING Project Coordinator
- Juan Guerrero - Seville Chamber of Commerce: “MED MOBIL: A new framework for Mobility cooperation in the Mediterranean Basin”

01.30 – 03.00 PM Lunch and networking

03.00 – 04.30 PM Neighbourhood policy for the Mediterranean: towards new perspectives and opportunities

Special Session: Supporting university and academic communities in crisis and conflict areas

- Serge Telle – Head of the French Inter- Ministerial Delegation for the Mediterranean
- MAE, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
- Nassif Hitti - Arab League Ambassador to Rome
- Khalid Chaouki - Member of the Italian Parliament
- Maher Natsheh – President of An-Najah National University
- Moussa Mohammed Mousa - President of University of Sirte
- Isabella Camera d’Afflitto - Full professor in Arabic Modern Literature - Sapienza University of Rome

04.30 – 06.00 PM Neighbourhood policy for the Mediterranean: towards new perspectives and opportunities

Special Session: The role of the Universities networks

- Ramon Torrent – University of Barcelona, Secretary General of Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE)
- Mohamed Loutfi - Pro-Vice Chancellor (International) of Cardiff Metropolitan University - Arab European Leadership Network in Higher Education – ARELEN
- Jean- Marc Bonnisseau – Vice president for International Affairs, Panthéon-Sorbonne University
- Michael Gaebel - Head of the Higher Education Policy Unit of the European University Association (EUA)
- Kris Dejoncckheere – UNICA Secretary General – Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (UNICA)
Michel Autric - Téthys Executive Director - Euro-Mediterranean University Network Téthys

Carla Salvaterra* – Vice-President of the Council of the Magna Charta Observatory.

Raniero Chelli – UNIMED EU projects Coordinator

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