How to become an active Mediterranean student?

Call for application
Mediterranean Student Summit

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

UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union - and the **Erasmus Student Network** – ESN, with the support of the **University of Palermo** will organise in Palermo the **third Mediterranean Student Summit,** an initiative that seeks to bring together Higher Education students from different backgrounds and from both shores of the Mediterranean to foster intercultural dialogue and work together on common challenges.

After the success of the two first editions, this initiative is now established as an annual event focusing on student engagement and intercultural dialogue with students from **UNIMED Universities**.

The Mediterranean Student Summit: the past editions

The first edition was held in November 2022 at the University of Barcelona and gathered 17 students from 8 countries.

The second edition was held in September 2023 at the University Abdelmalek Essaâdi of Tangier and gathered 25 students from 10 countries.

Have a look at the first editions here!

The Mediterranean Student Summit: Edition 2024

The third edition of the event will gather at least between **30 and 35 students** from UNIMED member Universities and will take place in the Mediterranean city of Palermo.

This edition will be an opportunity to reflect and encourage the students to explore and invest in their **international dimension.**

If mobility is definitely the key tool to discover, meet other cultures and build up our own international dimension, UNIMED and ESN are also convinced that, on a parallel way, the international dimension can be explored and strengthened "at home", by welcoming and networking with international students, by being part of the international activities implemented by the university, by participating to virtual exchanges, by activating relations with national and international stakeholders.

The Summit will be organised around 3 key moments:

- **online training sessions** will be provided to selected students to prepare them before the Summit. They will take place in **July, August and September 2024** (max 2 per month).

  These sessions (before and after) are full part of the Summit and will allow students to be familiar with the objectives of the Mediterranean Student Summit, to be prepared and thus to make the Summit more interactive and instructive. Online sessions will include, among other: ice breaking sessions and intercultural activities; presentation of UNIMED and ESN as well as other regional, national and international stakeholders;

- **3 days-summit in presence** in Palermo that includes: presentations by UNIMED, ESN, the University of Palermo and external contributors; presentations by the students (explained in the online sessions and prepared before the Summit), working groups, cultural activities;

- **2 online follow-up meetings after the event** to finalise the recommendations and to discuss the outcomes.

These online activities are fully part of the Summit and students should be committed to attend the 3 steps.

The **content** of the event will revolve around five 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?

- **Improving leadership and networking competencies:** the students will discuss the following questions: what kind of spaces exist for me, at my university, to meet others and build competencies? How can I contribute more effectively at student level to the internationalisation of my university? What do I need to get my voice heard at university level and outside university?

- **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.

- **Drafting recommendations to make the students' voice heard.** *Thanks to the* preliminary online sessions and the working sessions during the Summit, students will be guided in identifying, defining and writing recommendations on some challenges jointly identified by ESN and UNIMED.

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.
- Gain a deeper competence and understanding of internationalisation of Higher Education across the Mediterranean as well as the key players in the space.
- Policy outputs that will be addressed, from ESN and UNIMED, to the Union for the Mediterranean and to policy makers at national and international level.

When & where

Palermo, 26th to 28th of September 2024

Target audience

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

Working language

The working language of the Summit 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.

After the preliminary selection phase, an online meeting will be organised in order to assert the level of communication in English.

Preliminary selection

We kindly ask UNIMED associates to proceed with the first selection phase, introducing a selection process as open as possible, 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 (and maximum 5). We kindly ask you to inform the candidates of the necessity to attend the online activities before and after the Summit and to assess their commitment.

The students and sending universities are more than welcome to organise, after the summit, a dissemination/sensitising activity at university level.

Application procedure

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

- Curriculum Vitae
- Personal commitment to participate in the online activities and the ex-post activities
- 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 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?
- What do you see as the biggest challenge and the biggest opportunity for Higher Education in the Mediterranean?
- How do you see your role and responsibility as a multiplier ambassador after the summit back in your university?
- **Please try to stay below 2 pages**

UNIMED universities are invited to send the applications to:

unimed@uni-med.net and mss-esn@esn.org indicating in the subject: **Mediterranean Students Summit applications**

Final selection and evaluation process

A selection committee composed by members of UNIMED and ESN will analyse and proceed to the final selection of applications taking the following criteria into consideration:

- 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 the 10th of June**~~. **The deadline has been postponed to 17th June.**

The online assessment meeting will take place in June. The results will be communicated by **the end of June/beginning of July.**