

EU- South Mediterranean cooperation through Erasmus+:

Opportunities for the South Mediterranean region

What is Erasmus+ ?

Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2021-2027. Erasmus+ funds academic mobility and cooperation projects between (a) the 27 EU Member States plus six* other European countries associated to the programme, and (b) countries not associated to the programme who are located all over the world.

Erasmus+ supports activities that are closely matched with the common priorities for cooperation policy with partner countries and regions, including South Mediterranean region. Countries from this region can take part in Erasmus+ by partnering up with one or more of the 33 countries mentioned above. This factsheet looks at how popular these initiatives have been with the South Mediterranean so far in the ongoing Erasmus+ programme. In most South Mediterranean countries, the EU supports a National Erasmus+ office to help promote these opportunities.

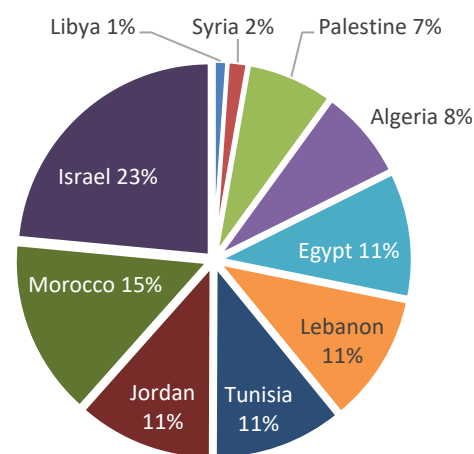
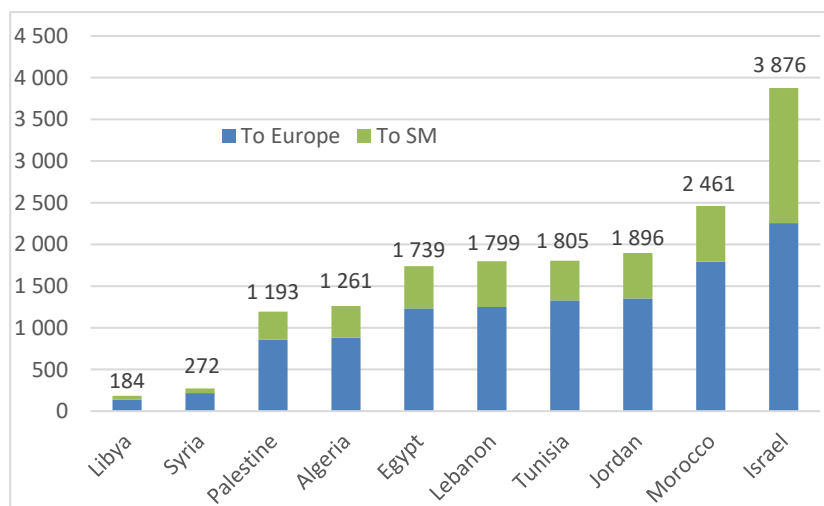
* In 2023 these six countries are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye.

International Credit Mobility

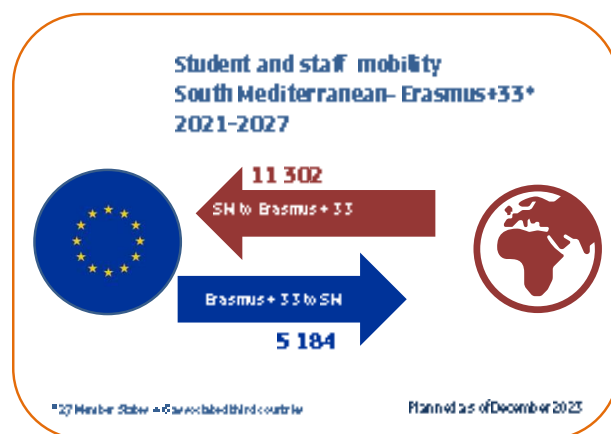
Since 1987, Erasmus has enabled students to study part of their course in a university in a different European country. With Erasmus+ this type of short-term mobility for students and staff is also possible beyond Europe, allowing students to study at a foreign university for 2-12 months and obtain credits which are then recognised at the sending institution as part of their degree. A grant for staff mobility is also possible for 5-60 days. Some projects also offer traineeships.

There are distinct budgets for different regions of the world that are divided between all the European countries. European institutions make up bilateral partnerships with universities in South Mediterranean countries and apply on behalf of their partners.

The first two annual selections of mobility projects have resulted in over 894 projects with more than 400 universities in 10 South Mediterranean countries. They plan **mobility for more than 16 000 students and staff**.



Mobility to/from South Mediterranean 16 486 people on the move



Over the two years, 10 South Mediterranean countries have forged mobility partnerships with Europe. For example, in 2023, 50 Tunisian universities were involved in mobility agreements with 120 universities in 24 European countries, from Romania to Estonia. One of these universities, Universidade Do Algarve (Portugal) also has partnerships with Egyptian and Moroccan universities.

Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMs) award full-degree scholarships to Master students from around the world covering tuition, travel, and a living allowance. The programmes last from one to two years during which students study in at least two different European countries. Upon graduation, they are awarded a joint or double degree, or multiple degrees.

Students can apply to these programmes even if the university where they studied is not involved in any of them. They have to look for the available programmes in the EMJM Catalogue and apply directly to the programme coordinator: <https://ec.europa.eu/erasmus-mundus>
The EU funds additional scholarships for students from South Mediterranean countries.

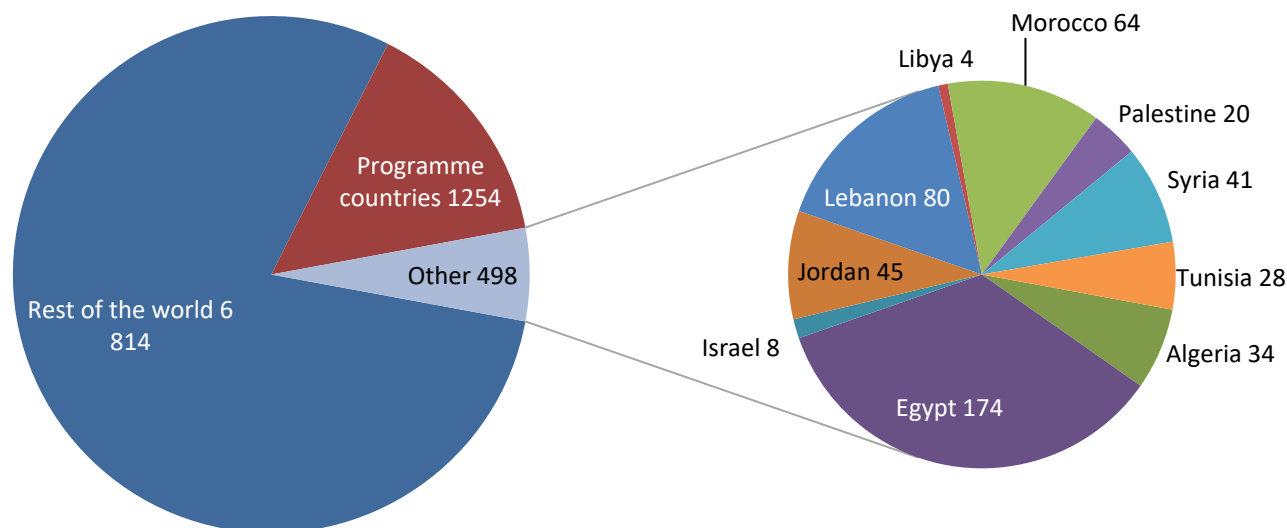
Institutions from South Mediterranean countries can also deliver these programmes: as applicants setting up the consortia; as full partners who officially award degrees; or as associated partners, where they participate in the programme in some kind of capacity – providing lecturers, hosting fieldwork, promoting the course – but do not award the actual joint degree.

Partners from South Mediterranean

So far we have seen four cases of South Mediterranean countries universities from Israel and Tunisia being involved as full hosting partners in EMJMs selected between 2021 and 2023. In the same period, South Mediterranean organisations have taken part 24 times in Erasmus Mundus programmes as associated partners.

EMJM Scholarships 2021-2027

last selection 2023



TPTI - Techniques, Heritage, Territories of Industry

This Erasmus Mundus Joint Master focuses on the history of technology and technological heritage relating to objects, buildings, urban planning, and landscapes. Led by the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (France), this international consortium also includes the SFAX University (Tunisia), University of Padua (Italy) and the University of Evora (Portugal). Other partners are from Czech Republic, Spain, Senegal, Japan and Argentina. This programme combines history, anthropology, archeology, sociology, conservation, and museum studies.

Erasmus Mundus and South Mediterranean 2021-2023



281 scholarships
for nationals of South Mediterranean countries



28 instances of South Mediterranean organisations involved (partner or associate)
3 of them as full partners and 1 as a coordinator

ChEMoinformaticsplus: Artificial Intelligence in Chemistry

The two-year Erasmus Mundus Joint Master program is designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to address current social and innovation challenges using advanced chemoinformatics techniques, including artificial intelligence and data sciences. Led by the University of Strasbourg, this international consortium also includes the Bar-Ilan University (Israel), and the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Ukraine) both renowned for their strong research expertise. Other partners are from Slovenia, France, and Portugal.

Find more about all project examples at
<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects>

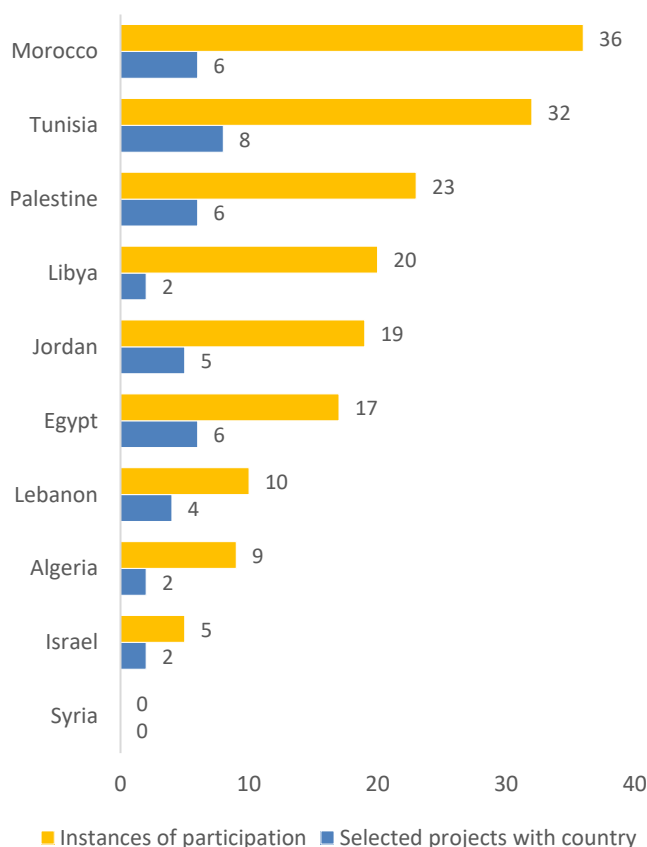
Capacity Building in Higher Education

Capacity-Building projects in Higher Education are 2 to 3 year-long projects implemented by multilateral partnerships of Higher Education institutions from both programme countries and South Mediterranean countries with the aim of modernising higher education institutions and systems in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine*, and Tunisia.

Capacity-Building projects not only promote cooperation between South Mediterranean region and 33 European countries, but they also contribute to curriculum development activities, modernisation of governance and management of higher education institutions and systems and strengthening relations between higher education and the wider economic and social environment.

Over the two selections since 2021, there have been 171 instances of participation by institutions from South Mediterranean in 28 projects selected to benefit higher education in this region.

*This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue



DARE 4.0 project aims to equip 1500 young people (18-30), young entrepreneurs and youth workers in Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Lebanon, Tunisia and Morocco with skills and competencies to accelerate the digital transformation of the economy and society. It aims to enhance intercultural dialogue, and foster diversity and innovation while bridging the digital divide, promoting inclusion and participation. The project aims to foster the development of interpersonal and intercultural skills, including critical and analytical thinking, creativity and learning.

Capacity-building projects for higher education 2022-2023



28 projects



171 Instances of participation

from South Mediterranean countries

Examples of CBHE projects

WE4LEAD

The three-year project is aiming at transforming the governance of Mediterranean Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) through the promotion and adoption of a culture of gender equality. It aspires to increase the proportion of women among the top decision-making bodies of the HEIs, thereby contributing to a more inclusive management and governance of these institutions. The project is coordinated by Aix-Marseille Université (FR), and includes partners from Autónoma de Madrid (ES), Roma Sapienza (IT), Constantine 3 (DZ), Mostaganem (DZ), Antonine (LB), Université Libanaise (LB), and Sousse (TN).

BLUE-ERA

The project "Blue-Era" aims to establish a novel master's degree program for sustainable blue economy in the south Mediterranean region countries: Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan. The ultimate objective is to use ocean resources on sustainable manner for local economic growth needs, improved livelihoods, entrepreneurship and generating employment while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems. Expected outcomes are of highly qualified graduates in fields of sustainable blue economy.

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange

Virtual exchanges are online people-to-people activities that promote intercultural dialogue and soft skills development between young individuals from South Mediterranean countries and their peers in Erasmus +33 countries.

This type of project aims at making it possible for every young person to access high-quality international and cross-cultural education (both formal and non-formal) without physical mobility. They take place in small groups and are always moderated by a trained facilitator, including activities such as online-facilitated discussions, trainings, interactive open online courses, etc.

52 organisations from South Mediterranean countries are involved in 10 Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange projects addressing various topics. Morocco and Tunisia are the most involved countries. Projects not only focus on digital skills, but also on local leadership, climate, active citizenship, and intercultural dialogue.

Capacity Building for Vocational Education (VET)

This action is new to the international dimension of Erasmus+ in 2022. It supports multilateral partnerships of organisations active in the field of VET in EU Member States or countries associated to the programme, and those from South Mediterranean.

VALHC - Valorisation of Human Capital in the Moroccan and Tunisian Footwear Sector This Greek-led project involves partners from Tunisia and Morocco and Portugal. It aims to build capacity of senior footwear experts, VET teachers and VET students in a demand-oriented way according to the skills' needs of the industry: green, digital, and entrepreneurial. To that end, curricula will be designed following the competency-based approach and implemented through a sustainable training system built on a train-the-tutor approach, which will result in enhanced skills of the current and future workforce.

COSMO - Developing a Cosmetology vocational diploma to increase the employability for Women The primary goal of COSMO project is to enhance the employability of women in Jordan and Egypt. The project encourages women to establish their own businesses and become successful participants in the labour market. The Diploma of Cosmetics will employ a curriculum that covers all the scientific and practical aspects of cosmetology and the use advanced technologies, products, and tools in the correct manner.

They aim to support the relevance, accessibility and responsiveness of VET institutions and systems in these regions and countries of the world as a driver of sustainable socio-economic development.

Out of the 126 projects selected worldwide, 24 projects were selected with 78 instances of participation from South Mediterranean countries.

Capacity Building for Vocational Training for South Mediterranean, 2022-2023



24 projects



78 instances of
South Mediterranean
participation

Jean Monnet Activities

Jean Monnet (JM) activities aim to develop EU studies worldwide. Since 1989 they have been supporting **Modules, Chairs, and Centres of Excellence** to promote excellence in teaching and research on the European integration process at higher education level. The programme also supports policy debate with the academic world through networks. These opportunities elicit great interest from countries outside Europe too and figures refer to the

higher education activities opened to third countries, to international networks and to other discontinued types of international projects.

Since 2021, 952 projects have been selected globally across three distinct categories. Among these, 11 projects are managed by HEIs from South Mediterranean. As for now, there are five Jean Monnet Networks where the HEIs from the South Mediterranean are participating.



EU climate change Adaptation

The goal of this project is to create a Jean Monnet module for the BA in engineering programs at Zarqa University (Jordan). The module will enable the transfer of the EU knowledge, best practices and effective strategies regarding climate change. The developed module aims to advance European regional climate change response and transfer European expertise to empower local stakeholders and decision-makers. The module is divided into three parts and foresees a series of workshops targeting a broader policy community.

Jean Monnet Networks

EU-RENEW - EU Research and Education Network on Europe in the World brings together 19 outstanding higher education institutions from Europe (9), Asia (3), Africa (4), and The Americas (3) with the goal of improving knowledge and enhancing debate on 'Europe in the World' through the collection, review, debate and dissemination of insightful and innovative research and educational material. It will establish a flexible system for the collection of relevant material that empowers its partners to expand on their own expertise, research networks, and academic projects in order to contribute valuable content.

Enhancing European Union Good Manufacturing Practice Knowledge through Interdisciplinary Studies

EUGMP aims to develop a course designed to help professionals and engineering students in Lebanon deepen their knowledge of European standards and regulations regarding safety and quality of pharmaceutical products. With no existing courses in Lebanon covering these guidelines, this course offers a unique opportunity for higher education students who do not typically come into contact with EU studies to expand their understanding of the EU and its role in regulating the pharmaceutical industry.

Opportunities in the field of Youth

Mobility Projects for Young People and Youth Workers

Organisations from South Mediterranean countries can participate as partners in mobility projects for young people and youth workers. Three types of activities can be supported under this Action.

Youth Exchanges

Between 2021 and 2023, 3 227 young people from the South Mediterranean countries have participated in youth projects in Europe, while 2 369 participants were hosted South Mediterranean countries.

Youth Workers Mobility

Between 2021 and 2023, 1 016 youth workers from South Mediterranean countries went to take part in youth projects in Europe (including training, job shadowing) while a further 462 youth workers were hosted in South Mediterranean countries.

Youth participation activities

Erasmus+ also supports activities outside formal education and training that encourage, foster and facilitate young people's participation in Europe's democratic life at local, regional, national and European level. Projects can take the form of meetings, conferences, public consultations, and thematic events. Between 2021 and 2023, 148 young people from the South Mediterranean countries participated in such projects.

Capacity Building in the field of Youth

Capacity Building in the field of Youth projects are international cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of youth in the EU and countries associated to the Programme, on the one hand, and in third countries not associated to the Programme, on the other hand. Projects aim at supporting international cooperation in the field of youth and non-formal learning, as a driver of sustainable socio-economic development and well-being among youth organisations and young people and aim at raising the capacity of organisations working with young people outside formal learning.

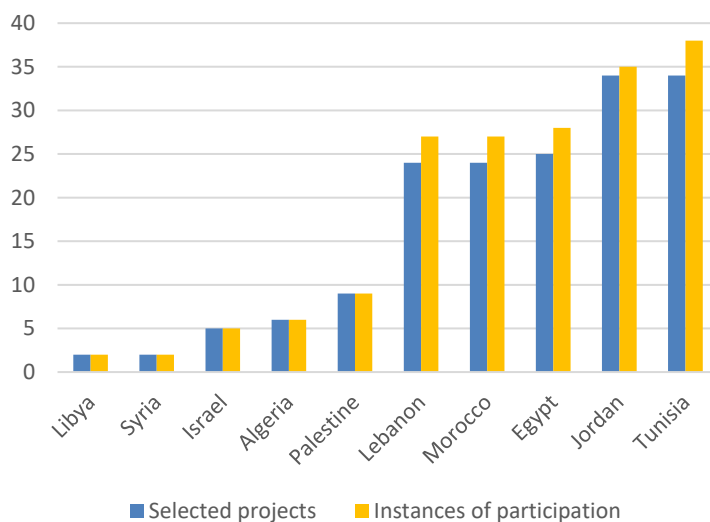
Since 2021, in the South Mediterranean, 63 projects for the region have been selected, involving 91 organisations from the different countries. You can find out more about those projects [here](#).

Erasmus+ for Youth is moving

4 391 people from South Mediterranean countries



2 838 people to South Mediterranean countries



More information:

Erasmus+ website: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en

Erasmus+ projects & results: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects>

Erasmus+ funding opportunities: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en

Erasmus+ National offices: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/contacts/national-erasmus-offices>