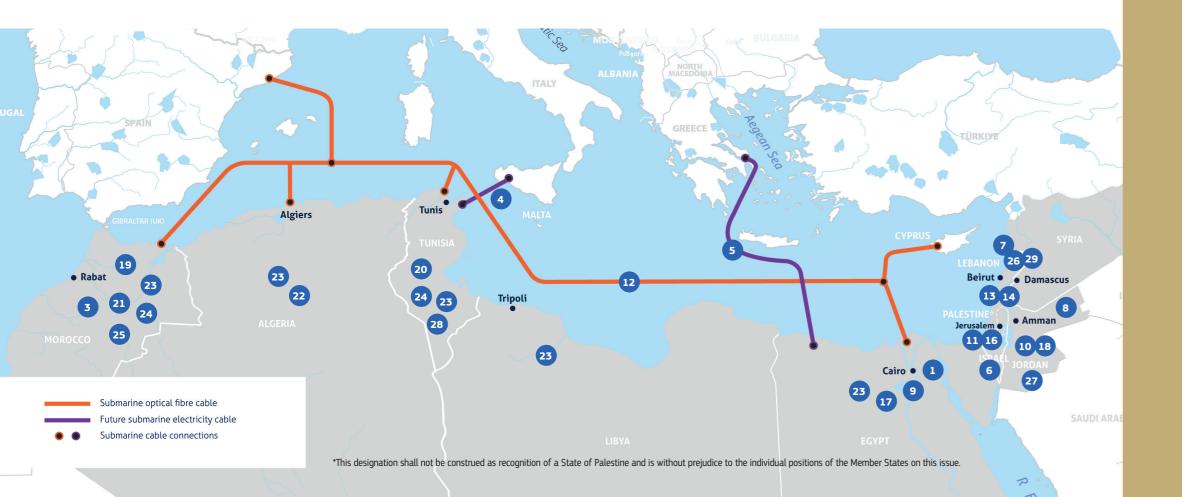
Selected projects in the Southern Neighbourhood



1 Cairo metro line 3 - Phase III

- 2 Programme for Energy Efficiency in Buildings
- 3 Green energy investments
- 4 ELMED submarine electricity interconnection
- 5 GREGY submarine electricity interconnection
- 6 Sustainable use of natural resources and energy finance
- 7 Renewable energy for the Lebanese Armed Forces
- ⁸ Support to the border crossing at Al Karameh
- 9 Helwan wastewater treatment plant
- 10 Improving access to water
- 11 Southern short-term low volume desalination plant
- 12 Medusa submarine optical fibre cable
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- **15** Regional Trade and Investment programme

16	Supporting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
17	Private sector development for the Sustainable Development Goals
18	Green Economy
19	Cooperation with the Mohammed VI Investment Fund
20	Strengthening food resilience
21	Innovative development in agriculture and forestry "Al Ard al Khadraa"
22	Agri-food industry
23	Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration
24	Supporting entrepreneurship of returnees
25	Social protection and financial inclusion programmes
26	Supporting progress in Public Administration Reform
27	Quality education for vulnerable children and youth
28	Green and digitally fit schools

29 Securing access to quality primary healthcare services

EGYPT

Cairo Ime 3

Phase III

The Cairo metro project increases social cohesion, alleviates the living conditions of Egyptian citizens and is a good solution to decrease pollution.

Mohamed Adnan User of the Cairo Metro

<u>į</u>

Project description

This investment extends Cairo's high-capacity rapid suburban metro. It connects the city centre to the West bank of the Nile river (Giza) via two sections: one towards Imbaba in the North, and the other towards Cairo University in the South. In addition to the construction works, the project provides training and transfer of know-how to the transport authority. By reducing urban congestion, the project will contribute to economic growth, mitigate climate change and promote a more environmentally friendly transport alternative for Cairo citizens.

Southern Neighbourhood projects

Impact

- ✓ **12 000 jobs** created
- ✓ Reduction of 9.3 megatonnes of CO₂ emissions during the operating period (2019-2053)
- ✓ 18 km of additional metro line built
- ✓ Reduced travel time for residents
- ✓ Reduced traffic congestion

Funding

Total cost (estimated)

€2.4 billion EU grant **€43 million** EU Member State's grant **€300 million** IFI loan **€600 million**

National contribution €1.5 billion



2 SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD Regional

ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL

Programme for Energy Efficiency in Buildings

The support from the European Commission has facilitated technical assistance through PEEB Med. This support aims to construct a more sustainable and resilient healthcare facility. Notably, for this hospital, we will be experiencing for the first time the use of a $\in 1$ million investment grant provided directly by PEEB Med, to facilitate the adoption of these ambitious measures by the hospital.

Jamil Koussa General Director of St Joseph hospital, East Jerusalem

Project description

Through this programme launched at COP27 in 2022, the EU supports seven Southern Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine* and Tunisia) in their transition to low-carbon, energy-efficient and climate-resilient building and construction through technical assistance and concessional loans for large-scale building projects (for example, social housing, schools, health facilities). In particular, it addresses the technical barriers to, and the cost of, energy efficient construction or renovation of buildings.

*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.

Impact

- ✓ 14.7 million people directly benefitting from the programme
- I million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent avoided over 50 years
- **37 800 MWh** saved each year over 10 years (equivalent to powering a city of approximately **190 000 people** for an entire year or equivalent to providing electricity for around **37 800 average households** for a year)
- ✓ More than **1 million beneficiaries** supported through the renovation of the St Joseph Hospital in East Jerusalem



Funding

Total cost (estimated)

€460.7 million

EU grant **€30.4 million** IFI grant **€380.3 million** National contribution **€50 million**

B MOROCCO

ALAST

Green energy investments

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It is an important moment to show that the discussion on climate change is a matter of willingness to act but also to act to transform the engagement into reality, and this is what Morocco and the EU try to do. Furthermore, the issue of energy security in the region is important. We bring a pragmatic and positive message to the international community.

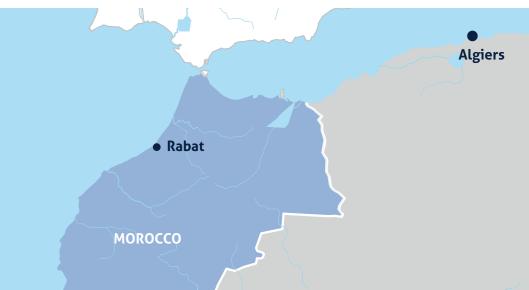
Nasser Bourita Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates

Project description

This programme supports the transition of Morocco towards a greener economy and society, accelerating decarbonisation and greening of the energy and industrial sectors. This will allow Morocco to move towards energy security and enhance economic competitiveness. The implementation of reforms will facilitate the production and use of clean energy, as well as the access of local SMEs to sustainable energy sources. Furthermore, the programme aims to tackle gender issues that intersect with green economy.

Impact

- ✓ Green electricity certification system established to certify the origin of energy sources
- ✓ **Independent electricity network** manager designated
- ✓ Innovative tools to promote **climate-sensitive budgeting** created
- Skills of the National Electricity Regulatory Authority strengthened
- ✓ Identification of appropriate **strategies** supported



Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€50 million EU grant €**50** million 4 **O TUNISIA**

ELMED submarine electricity interconnection

Photo © Societé Tunisienne de l'Electicité et du Gaz

The Elmed project testifies to the longstanding partnership between the Tunisian Government and the European Union in the energy sector, highlighting the strategic importance of this project for a secure, sustainable, and renewable energy future. Furthermore, we are convinced that this project will contribute to achieving the expected goal of energy transition in Tunisia by 2030 and to increasing its level of energy independence.

Faycel Tarifa Chairman and General Manager of Societé Tunisienne de l'Electicité et du Gaz

Project description

ELMED is a flagship energy infrastructure project in Tunisia and a potential success and tangible bridge between Africa and Europe. This submarine electricity interconnection between Italy and Tunisia aims to develop cross-border trade of electricity between the EU and Tunisia, enhance the deployment of renewable energy in Tunisia and improve the resilience of its power system, thereby contributing to economic growth and the transition to a lower carbon economy.

Southern Neighbourhood projects

Impact

- ✓ 220 km of cable installed between the converter substations in Partanna (Italy) and Mlaabi (Tunisia), having a capacity of 600 MW and a maximum depth of approximately 800 m
- ✓ Emissions of CO₂ reduced by more than **200 tonnes** each year
- ✓ Power exchange between the European and North African grids enhanced



Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€472.6 million

EU funding €334.6 million

IFI loans €138 million 5 **EGYPT**

GREGY submarine electricity interconnection

Egypt can become a reliable source of renewable energy. And for that reason, we highlighted on our side the importance of the decision we took to give the status of project of mutual interest for the GREGY project, basically the deep-sea electricity cable between Greece and Egypt. We consider this project to be the first, a blueprint, for further projects like this with Egypt, but also in the broader region.

Olivér Várhelyi Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement

Project description

GREGY is a flagship project aimed at building a 950 km long submarine cable to connect the electric power systems of Egypt and Europe through Greece for the transfer of clean energy produced from renewable sources in Egypt. This will benefit both the Egyptian and European electricity sectors through mutual benefits and enhanced cooperation between the two shores of the Mediterranean. GREGY is on the List of Projects of Common and Mutual Interest of the EU and is considered a significant infrastructure project of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Southern Neighbourhood.

Southern Neighbourhood projects

Impact

- \checkmark Bi-directional interconnection established with a capacity of **3 000 MW**
- ✓ Up to **61 000 MW** total installed RES capacity by 2035
- \checkmark CO₂ emissions reduced by **10 million tonnes**
- ✓ Up to **26 TWh of electricity** from fossil fuels replaced
- ✓ Improved quality, reliability and security of supply in both the Egyptian and Greek systems, due to the bi-directional power transmission
- ✓ Energy costs lowered for consumers and businesses



Funding

Total cost (estimated)



6 🚬 PALESTINE*

Sustainable use of natural resources and energy finance

Traditional banking does not finance clean energy projects without extra guarantees which raises the cost of borrowing. This is where SUNREF Palestine helped by providing the funds and subsidies to make that possible.

Sami Abu Yousef General Manager of Ritz Leasing

his 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

Project description

By supporting the second phase of the SUNREF programme, the EU guides the private sector towards a greener economy, with a primary focus on green energy. This will continue to deepen the green economy markets and boost energy finance. It will provide support to the private sector in generating and financing of green investments, with a particular focus on complex energy efficiency measures.

Impact

- ✓ **45 387 tonnes of CO**, emissions avoided each year
- ✓ €49.6 million of investments created in green economy
- ✓ **17 female beneficiaries** in phase I of the programme

Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€74.1 million

EU grant €12 million IFI loan €48.8 million Other investments €13.3 million



7 **LEBANON**

Renewable energy for the Lebanese Armed Forces

The Sustainable Energy for Security project is part of the LAF's priorities within the framework of its missions, which are not limited to military and security aspects only, but to environmental security as well. This funding is of great importance because it supports the LAF's efforts to monitor and control borders, and we look forward to more collaborations with UNDP and the EU to implement further projects that serve our common interests.

Brigadier General Pilot Ziad Haikal Deputy Chief of Staff for Equipment, Lebanese Armed Forces

Southern Neighbourhood projects

Lebanon's energy crisis has put at stake the functioning of public institutions, including the Lebanese Armed Force's (LAF) security and the well-being of its personnel. Work on border protection has also been impacted, especially by power shortages on the North-Eastern border, leading to heavy reliance on expensive diesel to operate power generators. Furthermore, the personnel's access to hot water and heating was limited. Thanks to the support of the EU, through the Energy4Security programme, the LAF's energy autonomy was strengthened and general energy services were improved. In turn, the LAF achieved a higher ability to observe and carry out their duties. EU support contributed to the implementation of the Lebanese Armed Forces Sustainable Energy Strategy (adopted in 2017).

Impact

- 24 photo-voltaic and micro-wind systems, 38 solar hot water systems, 35 biomass heating systems, 200 solar street lighting poles installed
- 220 fence lighting, 254 lighting solutions, and 2 retro-fitted barracks installed in 31 different locations
- ✓ €280 200 in energy costs and more than 630 tonnes of CO, emissions saved each year



Total investment (estimated)

€4 million EU funding €4 million



8 **Z** JORDAN

Support to the border crossing at Al Karameh

This project is a step in the right direction and it will help to achieve the balance between security and humanitarian assistance and will allow Jordanian Armed Forces to respond to humanitarian and security challenges at the North Eastern border with Syria in a timely manner. It will also support National Security agencies to overcome some of the challenges at the Borders.

Brigadier General Dr. Youssef Al-Khatibs Assistant Chief of Staff for Planning, Organisation and Defence Resources

Project description

The EU supports Jordan to improve the management of its borders and operational capacity of border crossing points, in order to fight transnational crime. To this end, it is reinforcing the flow of information among the different Jordanian border management agencies (General Intelligence Directorate, Border and Residence Department and Jordan Customs) both at the borders and at their headquarters in Amman. The EU and Member States are also providing support to the Jordanian Armed Forces to build a logistical hub and provide non-military equipment. These efforts are complemented with technical assistance and trainings in a number of areas related to border management subjects such as combatting human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, crisis management and health and safety, in addition to training offered in logistics.

Impact

- ✓ 3 operation rooms constructed and equipped at the Border Crossing Point of Al Karameh
- ✓ One logistical hub constructed and equipped for the Jordanian Armed Forces at Ruwaished base
- ✓ Improved capacity of Jordanian forces to counter illegal activities



Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€20.95 million EU grant €19 million

EU Member States' grants

€1.95 million

9 **EGYPT**

Helwan wastewater treatment plant

Signing the Helwan Wastewater Treatment Plant agreement today is a significant step in the implementation of the EU flagship project supported by the Economic and Investment Plan to provide two million inhabitants with high quality sanitation services in rural areas and to create jobs for more than 2 000 people.

Olivér Várhelyi Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement

Southern Neighbourhood projects

159

Project description

This project seeks to enhance Cairo's wastewater treatment, specifically in the Helwan area, where the current plant serves 1.6 million people but is overwhelmed by demand, leading to untreated wastewater discharges. The main objectives of the project are promoting an efficient and sustainable wastewater treatment in Southern Cairo, reducing wastewater-related pollution in the Al Saff Irrigation Canal, facilitating the safe reuse of treated wastewater for agriculture and contributing to climate change mitigation by making the wastewater treatment plant selfsufficient in electricity needs.

Impact

- ✓ Wastewater generation expected to nearly double by 2052
- Immediate capacity increase of 250 000 m³ each day by 2052
- Access to safely managed wastewater service for
 2 million people by 2037
- ✓ Around 2 000 jobs created

Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€210.6 million

EU grant **€25.6 million** IFI grants **€130 million** National contribution

€55 million



10 🔚 JORDAN

Improving access to water

Jordan is the second most water-scarce country in the world. The EU supports the population of Jordan in accessing safe and clean water while safely disposing of wastewater, especially in the North of the country, where the majority of the population lives. Through the ambitious Aqaba-Amman Water Desalination and Conveyance project, the EU supports Jordan towards a better and more strategic use of natural resources. Furthermore, the Jordanian Ministry of Water and Irrigation is supported in the adoption of measures to increase the efficiency in the use of water resources in the Jordan Valley.

			Funding
Total investment (estimated)	€5.2 billion		
EU grants	IFI loans	EU Member States' contribution	Other contributions
€161 million	€ 428.8 million	€270 million	€ 4.3 billion



1 Aqaba-Amman water desalination and conveyance

This flagship project aims at building a desalination plant in the Gulf of Aqaba, in the Red Sea, which will distribute 300 million m³ of desalinated water every year all over Jordan, the second most water scarce country in the world.

2 Al Ghabawi wastewater treatment plant

The EU supports the construction of the Al Ghabawi Wastewater Plant in the outskirts of the capital of Jordan, Amman. This infrastructure project helps managing water resources sustainably and will also pilot innovative solution to re-use treated wastewater for irrigation purposes.

3 West Irbid wastewater treatment plant

This project will introduce wastewater connections and services to Irbid and the surrounding towns for the first time, replacing the current disposal system and positively impacting on the livelihoods of the residents. Thanks to innovative engineering, the plant will not rely on energy-intensive pumping stations, reducing energy consumption and operational costs.

4 Jordan Valley water resources

This project supports the Government of Jordan in achieving measurable improvement and greater sustainability of the water sector, especially on the reallocation of fresh water resources from agricultural use to potable water supply. It helps the population in having increased water supply security for both domestic and agricultural purposes.

Impact

- ✓ 420 km of water pipeline installed between Aqaba and Amman, with diameters of up to 2.9 m
- ✓ 10 000 people employed every year for the Water Desalination and Conveyance project
- ✓ Around 200 000 people benefitting from the West Irbid Wastewater Treatment Plant
- ✓ Wastewater capacity of **22 500 m³** created thanks to the Al Ghabawi Wastewater Treatment Plant
- ✓ Jordan's resilience to the refugee crisis increased thanks to additional infrastructure capacity
- ✓ Jordan's National Water Strategy supported



As water is an increasing concern in Jordan, the support will cover as well the Economic and Investment Plan's flagship Aqaba-Amman Water Desalinisation and Conveyance project, that will provide annually over 300 million cubic meters of fresh water to Jordan.

Olivér Várhelyi, Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement

Southern short term low volume desalination plant

This project is a great example of the cooperation we support and appreciate with local and international partners in developing water and wastewater projects to serve our people the best way we can.

Eng. Mazen Ghunaim Head of the Palestinian Water Authority

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UNION

Southern Neighbourhood projects

Completed in June 2023, the EU-funded short term low volume desalination plant has been one of the major sources of safe water for the Gaza Strip. Currently, the desalination plant provides water to an estimated 500,000 people daily. The desalination plant has remained operational thanks to power generated from installed backup generators and solar power. In early 2024, €25.6 million additional EU funding have been contracted to ensure support to the desalination plant.

Impact

- ✓ 500 000 people have daily access to clean and safe water
- Production of desalinated water increased from 8 million cubic metres to 13 million cubic metres each year



Total investment



EU grant €55.6 million



12 SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD Regional

NORTH AFRICA

Medusa submarine optical fibre cable

The MEDUSA project will directly connect, for the first time, the Northern and Southern shores of the Mediterranean Sea and the Southern countries among themselves via a high-capacity, multi-country, future-proof optical fibre submarine cable. We will significantly upgrade the interconnectivity, stimulating innovation and research in the region. The MEDUSA project will inherently support the region's economic and social development.

Olivér Várhelyi Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement

Project description

The MEDUSA project aims to construct and deploy the MEDUSA submarine cable system in the Mediterranean, interconnecting European countries (Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and Greece) with North African countries (Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt). As the project develops, additional countries are going to be connected, on top of the original countries, providing high-speed connectivity to even more Mediterranean partners.

Southern Neighbourhood projects

Impact

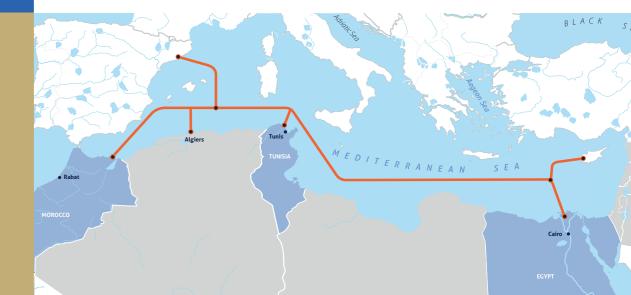
- ✓ **7 100 km** of high-speed internet cable deployed
- Almost **500 education and research establishments** in North Africa provided with improved connection to EU education and research centres
- EU Member States and Southern Neighbourhood
 countries connected
- ✓ **12 landing points** in the countries involved

Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€342.6 million

EU grant €40.2 million IFI loans €100 million Private investments €202.4 million



13 💌 ISRAEL

Enhancing the telecommunications market through Twinning

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The European Union and Israel share insights and efforts to build a future that promotes innovation, which affects industry and commerce.

Yoaz Hendel Minister of Communications of Israel (2020-2022)

Project description

Twinning is a European Union instrument for institutional cooperation between public administrations of EU Member States and partner countries. The purpose of this project was to strengthen the regulatory capacity of the Israeli Ministry of Communications to ensure the continued development of a competitive regulatory climate, including the retail and wholesale markets and other forms of network access. This included updating the regulatory framework to ensure fair and effective competition on the telecommunications market in Israel, based on EU Member States' experience in the implementation of relevant EU legislation.

Southern Neighbourhood projects

Impact

- ✓ Improved procedures for regulating service provision over networks owned and operated by others
- Broad market surveillance system developed in order to frequently and regularly check the implementation of the licensing conditions
- ✓ Market surveillance system covering all components of the electronic communications market
- ✓ Improved legislative framework and regulatory capacity, in accordance with EU Member States' best practices
- ✓ Fair competition ensured on the telecommunications market in Israel



Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€1.5 million EU grant

€1.5 million

14 💌 ISRAEL

Improving cybersecurity through TAIEX

Several of these recommendations will be implemented in our legal system.

Employee Israel National Cyber Directorate

Photo ©: AdobeStock

Southern Neighbourhood projects

Project description

The aim of this workshop was to advise the staff of the Israel National Cyber Directorate on the EU's legal toolbox on cyber security (NIS, NIS2, GDPR, CRA) to better understand EU Member States' experience in implementing the different regulations. Israel was in its third attempt to establish a national cyber security law and its objective was to learn from the EU Member States' experience in implementing the different regulations, the administrative burden it brings, and the various costs involved.

Impact

- ✓ Reduced gap in Israel's legal toolbox on implementation of good practices from Europe
- ✓ Sharing of best practices which will help to build Cyber Dome, to be ready to tackle cyber-attacks coming from abroad
- Active cooperation between the EU's best performing Member States and Israel as a most effective way to develop modern regulations



Total investment

€35000

EU grant €**35 000**



15 SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD Regional

Regional Trade and Investment programme

The regional Trade and Investment programme aims to ensure transparent market information, strengthen trade and investment policy reforms and optimise the quantity and quality of employment created. In parallel, in cooperation with financial institutions, the EU is implementing two regional Trade and Competitiveness financing facilities, aiming to provide access to finance to SMEs, addressing low competitiveness, productivity and quality challenges that impede exports and integration into global value chains.

Funding

Total investment from the EU (estimated)

€109 million

EU funding to International Organisations



€98 million



Trade and Investment Programme

This programme has three different components:

- 1 The Euromed Trade and Investment Facilitation Mechanism (TFIM) phase II
- 2 Support to the investment climate in the South Mediterranean region for sustainable jobs and growth
- Mainstreaming Employment into Trade and Investment in the Southern Mediterranean (METI), which ended in August 2024

The Trade and Investment programme is supported by an EU grant of $\in 11$ million. These three components of the programme facilitate economic ties between the EU and the Southern Neighbourhood, while improving economic integration between the countries participating in the programme.

Trade and Competitiveness financing facilities

The two facilities, supporting SMEs with a total of €103.2 million, are implemented in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan. The aim of this intervention is to increase the financing available to SMEs in the four countries, hence improving their competitiveness, and address key areas of vulnerability for business. This is achieved through long-term funding and capacity building of national banks in their role as financial intermediaries. Furthermore, SMEs are supported in stimulating exports, enhancing competitiveness and modernising their businesses.

Impact

- ✓ 2 208 SMEs received funding through this programme
- ✓ 8 202 jobs sustained
- ✓ More than **34 000 users** accessed the Trade and Investment Facilitation Mechanism Helpdesk
- ✓ 76 individuals trained
- Policies to improve the impact of investment on sustainable development in 8 countries
- 7 dialogues initiated with women business associations and other stakeholders promoting women's economic development

The training on Euromed Trade Helpdesk was an eye-opener for me. I would use what I learned on identifying new trade opportunities to support women entrepreneurs within my organisation.

Iman Hassasneh Project Manager at Business Women Forum

16 **PALESTINE***

Supporting micro, small and mediumsized enterprises

This project to expand our capabilities with double and triple glazed panels wouldn't have been possible without this loan. It was a game-changer. We had the place and the ambition, but securing the financing for those specialized machines was a hurdle. This loan was like that final push we needed to jump over that barrier. Now, we're not just a glass company, we're a leader in advanced glazing solutions, and that's a future we wouldn't have reached without their belief in our vision.

Abdullah Major shareholder in a beneficiary company

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Southern Neighbourhood projects

Project description

The Stichting European Palestinian Credit Guarantee Foundation (EPCGF) is the first operating guarantee scheme in Palestine designed for small and medium-sized enterprises. With the support of the EU, EPCGF's main goals are to enhance small businesses' competitiveness and, on a sustainable basis, support income generation, employment creation, and poverty reduction. The Foundation represents a good mechanism and opportunity for participating partner banks to tap into the oftenneglected small businesses market segments. This is in addition to broadening their outreach by making access to finance easier for this large sector of the economy on a risk-sharing basis.

Impact

- 1 709 micro, small and medium-sized
 businesses benefitting from loans from banks and microfinance institutions
- ✓ More than **€30 million** disbursed in loans

Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€140 million EU grant €10 million EU Member State's contribution €10 million

Other loans €120 million



AFD

17 **EGYPT**

BANQUE MISE

Private sector development for the Sustainable Development Goals

Banque Misr is pleased to be part of such an initiative to promote positive change by encouraging private investment in sustainable projects in Egypt and assisting our clients in their transition to sustainability.

Suzan F. Hamdy Ph.D. Chief Sustainability and Sustainable Finance Officer at Banque Misr, Egypt

Southern Neighbourhood projects

Project description

Finance in Common is the global network of all Public Development Banks, which aims to align financial flows with the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement on Climate Change. This project is a pilot under the Finance in Common network. The project aims to boost sustainable finance practices in Egypt, particularly in climate and gender investments.

Impact

- ✓ New regulation on sustainable finance adopted by the Central Bank of Egypt
- ✓ Approximately €40 million provided for sustainable finance by the end of 2023
- ✓ 1 628 small and medium sized businesses provided with access to sustainable finance
- ✓ 2 649 jobs supported by the EU thanks to sustainable investment

Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€203.8 million

€13.8 million

€140 million

EU grant

Public Finance Initiative contributions

€50 million



18 **I**JORDAN

Green Economy

The partnership between the EU and Jordan is a testament to the power and centrality of international cooperation when it comes to addressing shared socio-economic and environmental challenges. Our collaboration may only deepen and endure because it is grounded in shared values and mutual respect. Indeed, we share a heartfelt desire for durable development, sustainable growth, and for social equality and cohesion.

HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan President of the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan

Project description

Through this programme the EU supports sustainable and efficient production and consumption patterns in the industrial sector, strengthens coordination between the energy, water and agriculture sectors and contributes to sustainable public and private transport. The aim is to develop a green, environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive economy. Support will be given to promote biodiversity conservation in the coastal city of Aqaba, promote the use of wastewater for irrigation purposes and for sustainable agriculture and to promote the production and use of renewable energy for industry and consumer applications.

Impact

- ✓ Marine Park Research Centre established in Aqaba
- Sustainable production and consumption improved for
 150 enterprises following energy audits
- ✓ 500 off-grid solar panel water pumps installed for irrigation
- ✓ 750 e-vehicle charging stations installed



Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€68 million EU grant €**68** million

19 **MOROCCO**

Cooperation with the Mohammed VI Investment Fund

We are ready to co-finance projects and also directly contribute to the Mohammed VI Investment Fund.

Olivér Várhelyi Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement

Southern Neighbourhood projects

Project description

The objective of this action is to support the acceleration of sustainable and inclusive economic development in Morocco. This programme will contribute to the objectives of the Mohammed VI Fund for Investment, in particular the structuring of private investment with a high economic, social and environmental impact and the improvement of the capacity of businesses to create sustainable jobs.

Impact

- ✓ Structuring investments and boosting productivity
- ✓ Financial market, access to finance and private equity strengthened
- ✓ Increased share of national and international private investments



Total investment (estimated)

€60 million EU grant €60 million



20 **O TUNISIA**

Strengthening food resilience

"[The project] will also reinforce Tunisia's resilience in the face of shocks – in the face of food crises.

Nabil Zarouk Deputy General Director of Tunisia's Cereals Office (ODC)

Project description

The EU and other donors support Tunisia's state-owned Cereals Office (ODC) to purchase grain, modernise infrastructure for grain storage and transport, and underpin sector reforms to develop a more resilient food system. This project contributed to mitigating the disruption of Tunisia's grain supply and food crisis because of the war in Ukraine. In addition, another programme between the EU and Tunisia aims to reinforce ongoing EU support to local cereal producers.

Southern Neighbourhood projects

Impact

- ✓ **279 000 tonnes** of soft wheat purchased
- ✓ Field silos to store grains and cereals reconstructed or renovated, including additional infrastructure to link silos via railway transport
- ✓ Reduced **production costs** for local cereal producers supported
- ✓ Four local cereal enterprises benefitted from direct financial support
- ✓ Increased support for **research and development** for a more sustainable agricultural production
- National school food programme supported to improve nutrition in schools and fight food waste



Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€321.5 million EU grant €20 million

IFI loan €**301.5** million 21 MOROCCO

Innovative development in agriculture and forestry

"Al Ard al Khadraa"

Al Ard Al Khadraa is an innovative leverage for the excellent agricultural and forestry training and research consortium in Morocco to innovate in the virtuous circle of training, research and entrepreneurship in order to prepare future generations for a paradigm shift to develop the green transition towards sustainable agriculture.

Lamiae Ghaouti Head of International Cooperation at the Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II, Morocco

Project description

This programme aims to consolidate environmental, inclusive and innovative development in agriculture and forestry. In particular, it supports the green transition in both sectors, creating decent jobs and sustainable practices and innovation in four pilot regions where environmental, climate and socioeconomic conditions are particularly averse to rural workers (Tetouan Tanger Al Hoceima, Draa Tafilalet, Beni Mellal Khenifra, Oriental).

Impact

- ✓ **50% of quality forest plants** provided by private companies
- ✓ Conservation agriculture practices applied to **3 000 hectares**
- ✓ More resilient and diversified crops used in **187 760 hectares**
- ✓ **19 008 jobs** created by reforestation activities
- 2 000 women technically and financially supported in jobs and SMEs creation and/or consolidation in the framework of small and family farming
- ✓ Social security coverage provided to 400 000 agriculture workers



Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€115 million EU grant €115 million

22 ALGERIA

Agri-food industry

"We realised that there is a strong demand for our export product but we had no idea of how to export. Our meeting with the experts of the PASA programme enabled us to set up in export. In this way, we have been able to follow the various steps to make our projects a reality and become an exporting company.

Sarah Salama Head of Enterprise at Salama Production, Algeria

Project description

The Support Programme for the Agriculture Sector (PASA) aimed at developing the agricultural economy by strengthening a limited number of strategic sectors for national food security and those with significant export potential: potatoes, peppers, dates and olive oil. The action integrated the main challenges of the agri-food industry and the management of water resources for agricultural use with a value chain approach, targeting production, valorisation of agricultural products, local know-how and agri-food industry, processed products and marketing.

Impact

- Studies and training sessions undertaken to understand the operating dynamics of the target sectors
- Pilot agricultural plots set up and continued training provided to the farmers involved
- ✓ **Competitiveness** of industrial and commercial actors improved
- ✓ **80 companies** supported
- ✓ Contractual **farming business models** developed
- ✓ Large-scale council support scheme implemented and support for innovative economic initiatives for the **olive oil sector**
- Institut Technique de l'Arboriculture Fruitière et de la Vigne (ITAFV) strengthened and supported



Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€16.6 million

EU grant €15 million

Member States' grants

23 SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD Regional

Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration

I spent two years like a fugitive, where I had to hide from the police not to get caught as I did not obtain a regular stay, some people helped me, but I can't live in this situation anymore. With my diploma now, I feel I have a purpose to return back home and take care of my family. I went to IOM office in Tunis and applied for the Voluntary Return and Reintegration assistance programme.

Abdoulaye A Guinean migrant in Tunisia assisted by the programme

Project description

This programme aims to support vulnerable migrants stranded in North Africa to safely and voluntarily return to their countries of origin, and to be sustainably reintegrated, by providing them with tailored assistance covering their specific needs. The programme empowers migrants and potential migrants to take informed decisions about their migratory journey and build awareness about migration in communities. In addition to that, it helps improving data collection on migratory flows, routes and trends, as well as migrants' needs and vulnerabilities.

Southern Neighbourhood projects

Impact

- ✓ Over **29 000 migrants** safely returned from North Africa to their countries of origin
- ✓ Over **20 000 migrants** provided protection and direct assistance
- **10 spaces** dedicated to migrant protection supported by the EU



Total investment (estimated)

€70.6 million

EU grant €68 million

Member States' contribution

€2.6 million



24 SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD Regional

MOROCCO - TUNIS

Supporting entrepreneurship of returnees "We are in France and Tunisia. The Tunisian market is interesting to test our product, and then it will be interesting to enlarge to Algeria, Morocco, France, Italy... I evolved a lot thanks to the experience of fellow entrepreneurs. We learned a lot with the trainings and the networking and the support programmes, like MEETAfrica, with which we are able to advance enormously.

Yassine Khlass D-WEE HealthCare, a start-up

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Southern Neighbourhood projects

Project description

The project "MEET Africa" promotes the creation of economic activities and jobs in Morocco and Tunisia by accompanying and supporting the Moroccan and Tunisian diaspora in returning and investing in their country of origin. This project is also implemented in Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Senegal. This intervention improves considerably the business environment in both Morocco and Tunisia, helping returnees to set up business models that are innovative and supported by the diaspora. Phase 2 of the project also aims to provide additional support to entrepreneurs already targeted by MEETAfrica 1.

Impact

- ✓ 46 Tunisian and Moroccan entrepreneurs, of which 17 women, supported through Phase 2 of the project
- South-South cooperation enhanced between Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa with the organisation of 36 seminars with 7 173 participants sharing experience and knowledge
- ✓ A Euro-African platform created to assess and classify offers for the diaspora



Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€8.5 million EU funding

EU Member State contribution

€3.5 million

25 MOROCCO

Social protection and financial inclusion programmes

This reform is a leap forward for our country.

Ihsane Shopkeeper in Rabat, Morocco

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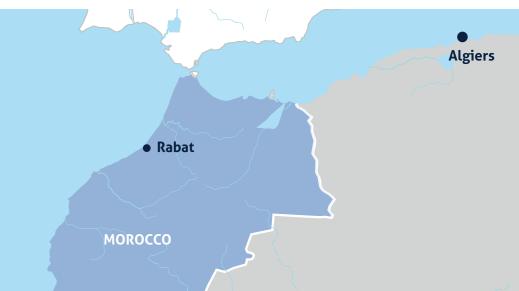
Project description

Through the Programme for Social Protection (KARAMA), the EU supports specific actions to ensure a fair access to universal health coverage, family allocations, unemployment insurance and pensions for the Moroccan population. In parallel, the Financial Inclusion Programme promotes a more resilient economy and a more inclusive private sector growth.

Southern Neighbourhood projects

Impact

- ✓ More than **3.5 million vulnerable households** have better access to insurance, including health insurance
- ✓ **312 398 enterprises** supported
- ✓ **7 million children** receive direct social assistance
- ✓ Cash transfers provided to **80% vulnerable households**
- ✓ 20% additional working population integrated into the retirement system



Funding

Total cost (estimated)

€181 million EU grant €181 million

26 **LEBANON**

Supporting progress in Public Administration Reform

Dr. Jean Ellich President of the Public Procurence Photo ©:Transparency International 'Despite the many obstacles we face, we are determined to pursue our ambitious goals and our commitment to law enforcement.

Dr. Jean Ellieh President of the Public Procurement Authority of Lebanon

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Project description

Lebanon's public sector is under existential threat due to the economic and political crises that the country has been facing in recent years. The weakened capacity and flawed management of public institutions have resulted in low quality and accessibility of essential public services. Thanks to support from the EU, progress in key areas of public administration reform in Lebanon is strengthened through enhancing the integrity, transparency and accountability of its public administration, aligned with the opportunities of reform identified by the IMF Staff-Level Agreement and the principles of a modern public administration. EU support contributes to the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

Southern Neighbourhood projects

Impact

- ✓ Integrity of the public administration safeguarded, mainly in the area of human resources management in the civil service
- ✓ Transparency in public administration systems enhanced, mainly in the area of public procurement (i.e. public financial management reform) at central and local level and access to public information (i.e. accountability)
- Accountability of the administration strengthened by reinforcing the role of oversight bodies in implementing reform and fighting and preventing corruption



Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€12 million EU grant €12 million 27 **Z** JORDAN

Ouality education for vulnerable children and youth

Without the support of the European Union and the EDU-SYRIA program, I wouldn't have achieved the first place in the Arab Artificial Intelligence Olympiad. This has truly made me feel blessed and proud of my education and my skills!

Aseel Al-Khalaf Beneficiary of the programme

Project description

With the EDU-SYRIA Scholarship Programme vulnerable children and youth in Jordan can complete a full cycle of quality education, regardless of their registration status and nationality. The programme contributes as well to providing technical and vocational education, training and higher education opportunities. The programme supports both Jordanian and non-Jordanian children and youth.

Impact

- ✓ **120 schools** supported in the implementation of the Inclusive Education Strategy through the establishment of multi-disciplinary teams
- ✓ Net enrolment rate in supported schools increased from 57% to 84%
- ✓ Tuition fees covered for 150 000 Syrian refugees and for more than 3 000 non-Syrian children
- ✓ About **740 scholarships** for higher education and training opportunities provided to refugees and vulnerable Jordanians



Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€45 million EU grant €**45** million

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28 **O TUNISIA**

Green and digitally fit schools

Here, we have real material for scientific subjects. This changes everything!

Ayoub A student beneficiary of the programme

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Project description

The EU supports the efforts of the Tunisian Government to tackle school dropouts and reduce the rate of pupils repeating a year, ensuring inclusive and equitable education. The second phase of the Programme for Modernisation of School Facilities (PMES) aims to improve learning and teaching conditions for children enrolled in primary education all over the country, by building new primary schools and purchasing transport means and digital equipment. Furthermore, the new schools are built following bioclimatic and energy-saving design principles, including through the installation of solar panels. This project aligns with the "People-topeople contacts" pillar of the EU-Tunisia Memorandum of Understanding signed in July 2023.

Impact

- ✓ 80 new primary schools built during the second phase of the programme
- ✓ **14 500 pupils** benefitting in the second phase of the programme
- Schools built in the first phase of the programme in the Governorates of Medenine, Djerba, Tozeur, Manouba, Tunis, Mahdia, Bizerte, Zaghouan, Sfax, Monastir, Tataouine, Beja and Ben Arous
- New schools built in respect of the Tunisian architectural tradition and in harmony with the local context



Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€65 million EU grant **€25** million

IFI loan €40million

29 🚺 LEBANON

Securing access to quality primary healthcare services

Now, I can do things with my hands, like cooking. Now that I have the wheelchair, I can visit people, cook and go out more. Having this wheelchair has helped to do the things I liked to do.

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Alia A beneficiary living in Akkar, Northern Lebanon

RAYA C

Project description

Through this programme, the EU helps Lebanon to improve continued access to equitable, affordable and quality primary healthcare, including mental health and psychological support, and to strengthen access to medical products, including vaccinations and medicines for both refugees from Syria and Lebanese host communities.

Funding

Total cost (estimated)

€70 million EU grant €70 million

Southern Neighbourhood projects

Impact

- ✓ 103 313 individuals, spread across 505 primary healthcare centres have access to medication to better manage their chronic diseases
- ✓ Around **500 000 individuals** benefit from improved access to primary healthcare on a yearly basis
- Around **52 800 individuals** have access to mental health and psychosocial support services on a yearly basis at EU-supported primary healthcare centres
- 60 primary healthcare centres provide generic and specialised consultations
- ✓ Logistic Management System and patient dispensing systems of the Ministry of Public Health supported and upgraded
- National Health Strategy Vision 2030, supported and launched on 31 January 2023

