



## V Euromed Young Researchers Forum - CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS Bridging the Gap in Euro-Mediterranean relations: Youth as drivers of Cohesion

16-17 September 2022, Mollina (Spain)

Deadline to apply: 30 June 2022, 23:59hrs CET

Are you a **young researcher from the Euro-Mediterranean region**? Are you interested in exploring cohesion prospects for the future of Euro-Mediterranean relations?

The **Euromed Young Researchers Forum** gathers young experts **from across the Mediterranean** every year to exchange with policy-makers, practitioners and other young experts on key issues in the Euro-Mediterranean area and contribute to policy shaping in the region. Conceived and founded by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), the Forum offers young experts the chance to **share experiences** and **issue concrete proposals** on relevant topics. Participants will also have the opportunity to attend capacity building sessions to boost their research and communication skills.

The Forum is part of the **Euromed Young Researchers Lab**, an initiative of the [EuroMeSCo: Connecting the Dots](#) project, co-funded by the European Union and the European Institute of the Mediterranean. The Euromed Young Researchers Lab aims to **boost the research capacities of young experts** across the Mediterranean, **give visibility and recognition to their work**, strengthen exchanges and stimulate research on issues of common interest, in particular in the fields of economic development, migration and security.

This year's edition of the Forum will be about **"Bridging the Gap in Euro-Mediterranean relations: Youth as drivers of Cohesion"**.

### Background



The war in Ukraine has incited strong reactions, particularly of Western governments who responded swiftly with measures such as military support to Ukraine, sanctions and humanitarian aid. Analyses of media and social media discourses reveal how the European Union's (EU) response to the conflict has often been met by accusations of double standards, racism and hypocrisy in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries. The gap of narratives between both sides of the Mediterranean around the war in Ukraine and the EU response to it has epitomized pre-existing misunderstandings. These analyses also reveal that propaganda and disinformation campaigns play an important role in amplifying certain discourses and influencing public opinion. This challenging context exacerbates divisions within societies and could potentially weaken cohesion and put a strain Euro-Mediterranean relations in an increasingly geopolitically volatile region, and deteriorate the Euro-Mediterranean concept, which has already been losing some traction over the past years. Such considerations are particularly relevant as the EU, with the [New Agenda for the Mediterranean](#) released in February 2022, aims to reinvigorate the partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood partner countries. One of the core underlying principles put forward by the EU in this framework is stability, from security, economic and political perspectives, to achieve inclusive development and prosperity across the region.

### Call for proposals

The aim of this call is to select **up to 24 young researchers and students from the Euro-Mediterranean region** to participate and actively intervene in the Youth Forum by presenting their research proposals. Participants will be selected based on their CV and short research proposal.

This Forum invites participants to reflect on how young people have perceived the war in Ukraine on both shores of the Mediterranean as well as the responses to the war; analyze misconceptions -which messages are being spread-, the actors and platforms involved in spreading disinformation campaigns; examine the existing policy frameworks and tools in place to combat disinformation and its potential impacts; discuss how narratives can be reconciled; examine the role of





youth in fostering more cohesion and put forward recommendations to bridge the growing gaps between both shores of the Mediterranean.

Possible subthemes for research proposals include (among others) exploring how disinformation, digitalisation and artificial intelligence can impact human rights, equality and social cohesion, and how these affect different populations, including vulnerable groups. The role of civil society (and youth in particular) in building trust in institutions and promoting regional stability may be analyzed, as well as prospective trends which could shape the future of Euro-Mediterranean relations. Proposals may be linked to the thematic pillars covered by EuroMeSCo, namely **security, economic development and migration**.

### WHO CAN APPLY?

The candidates shall:

- ✓ be researchers or students between 18 and 35 years of age who have attained at least a bachelor's degree;
- ✓ be affiliated to a research centre, a university or organisation based in one of the [42 UfM countries](#) (priority will be given to researchers affiliated to EuroMeSCo member organisations);
- ✓ demonstrate interest in the Forum's themes;
- ✓ demonstrated academic and/or professional background with regards to the Forum's theme is desirable.

### HOW TO APPLY?

1. Please submit your CV of no more than 2 pages with the subject line of "Application for Euromed Young Researchers Forum 2022" to [euromesco@iemed.org](mailto:euromesco@iemed.org) **and** fill in the online [APPLICATION FORM](#) by including a short research proposal (of up to 350 words) that should be related to the Forum themes.

***Deadline for applications is 30 June 2022, 23:59hrs CET.***





1. The selection process will be completed by 4 July 2022. All applicants will be notified by e-mail of the results of their application.
2. Selected participants will be asked to prepare a 1-2 page Concept Note on their selected research topic ahead of the event.
3. After the Forum, at least 6 authors will be selected to develop and convert their Concept Notes into a [EuroMeSCo Policy Brief](#) (about 3,000 words). Authors selected for publishing Policy Briefs will be remunerated. More details will be provided in due course.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- ✓ This event is scheduled to take place in Mollina (Spain) in the framework of the [University on Youth and Development](#), organised by the North South Centre of the Council of Europe on "[Building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions](#)", organised by the North South Centre of the Council of Europe. In addition to participating in the sessions of the V Euromed Youth Forum, participants will also have the opportunity to share experiences and learn from other international youth organisations taking part in the UYD.
- ✓ The Euromed Youth Forum will last 2 full days (16 and 17 September), participants are expected to travel to Mollina on 15 September and depart on 18 September.
- ✓ The IEMed will provide round-trip flight tickets, accommodation expenses and meals during the Forum, and will cover visa costs. Participants will be accommodated in double or triple rooms at the venue ([CEULAJ](#)).
- ✓ In order to guarantee a safer environment and limit the possibility of a Covid-19 outbreak at the venue, which would undermine all activities, participants will kindly be requested to undertake a Covid test (antigen or PCR) before boarding their flight to Spain (or before starting their travel to Mollina, for those based in Spain).



- ✓ Selected participants will be provided with more detailed information about the logistics and operational aspects of the Forum.

