



## VIII Euromed Young Researchers Forum - CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

### Shaping the Digital Future of the Euro-Mediterranean Region

15-17 September 2025, Molina (Spain)

Deadline to apply: 16 June 2025, 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**, which 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 **"Shaping the Digital Future of the Euro-Mediterranean Region"**.

#### Background

Digitalisation is reshaping the economic and security landscapes of the MENA region, presenting both remarkable opportunities and complex challenges. The rapid adoption of digital technologies has driven significant economic growth, with sectors such as e-commerce, fintech, and digital services expanding rapidly. However, this technological shift also brings about significant security risks and poses threats to human rights. The region faces growing concerns over cyberattacks, with governments increasingly targeted by state and non-state actors seeking to disrupt critical infrastructure and steal sensitive data. Furthermore, the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) has introduced new dimensions of warfare, with AI-powered drones and autonomous weapons systems being tested and deployed, increasing the potential for digital warfare. Governments are also using advanced technological tools to monitor and control populations, including migrants, through



surveillance technologies and data analytics. These tools, while useful for maintaining national security, raise serious concerns about privacy, freedom of movement, and human rights. As the region embraces digitalisation, it must carefully navigate the balance between economic growth and the protection of individual rights and security.

For the **Euromed Young Researchers Forum 2025**, we invite young researchers to submit their abstracts on the theme of "**Shaping the Digital Future of the Euro-Mediterranean Region**". We seek to explore how the challenges of digitalisation are being navigated in the region, what opportunities these new digital landscapes offer, and how young people can shape policies and drive digital transformation. Digital transformation will be analysed and discussed under the three thematic pillars of EuroMeSCo, namely security, migration and economic development. Research proposals **may focus on, but are not limited to:**

- The role of youth in influencing and shaping digital sovereignty policies in the region
- The impact of digital sovereignty on young people's access to education, employment, and digital opportunities
- The intersection of digital and green transitions, exploring how digitalisation can drive sustainable development in the region and create green jobs for youth
- The use of digital technologies to address environmental challenges, from green hydrogen to smart agriculture and waste management
- Digital tools and migration: how can digitalisation impact migration flows, what impact does new technology on free movement and human rights?
- The opportunities and risks of digitalisation for young people, including issues of data privacy, cybersecurity, and the potential for youth-led innovation in the digital sector
- How young people can address challenges of digital inequality and contribute to building a more inclusive digital future

We invite young researchers from the Euro-Mediterranean region to submit their research proposals that delve into these crucial themes, offering innovative solutions and recommendations for both MENA countries and their partners in the European Union.

**Submission Deadline: 16 June 2025, 23:59hrs CET**

**Submit your abstract here:** <https://forms.office.com/e/pZV7U7hSS6>




## 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 [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. [Follow us](#) on Instagram , where we will be posting updates on the event.
2. Please submit your CV of no more than 2 pages with the subject line of "Application for Euromed Young Researchers Forum 2025" 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 16 June 2025, 23:59hrs CET.***

- The selection process will be completed by 23 June 2025. All applicants will be notified by e-mail of the results of their application.
- Selected participants will be asked to prepare a 1-2 page Concept Note on their selected research topic ahead of the event.
- 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 "[Empowering youth for digital safety](#)", organised by the North South Centre of the Council of Europe. In addition to participating in the sessions of the VIII 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 3 full days (15 and 17 September), participants are expected to travel to Molina on 14 September and depart on 17 September in the afternoon or 18 September (depending on flight availability).
- ✓ 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](#)).
- ✓ Selected participants will be provided with more detailed information about the logistics and operational aspects of the Forum.