



European  
Commission

## EU-Southern Mediterranean cooperation through Erasmus+

### What is Erasmus+ ?

Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. Erasmus+ funds academic and youth mobility and cooperation projects that involve partners from "Programme Countries" and "Partner Countries" throughout the world. In 2019, there were 34 Programme Countries, comprising the 28 EU Member States plus six\* other European countries. Partner countries are located all over the world and include the countries of the Southern Mediterranean: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia.

Erasmus+ supports activities that are closely matched with the EU's priorities for cooperation policy with partner countries and regions. Five years into the programme, we can see how popular these initiatives are with countries from the region.

### International Credit Mobility

Since 1987, students and staff have moved between European universities in the Erasmus programme. Since 2015, Erasmus+ has also allowed short-term mobility between Europe and other parts of the world for students, researchers, and staff, known as 'International Credit Mobility' (ICM for short). This two-way mobility allows students to study in a foreign university for **3-12 months** (2-12 months in case of traineeships) 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**.

There are distinct budgets for different regions of the world that are divided between all 34 Programme Countries. Programme-Country institutions make up bilateral partnerships with universities from the Southern Mediterranean and apply on behalf of their partners.

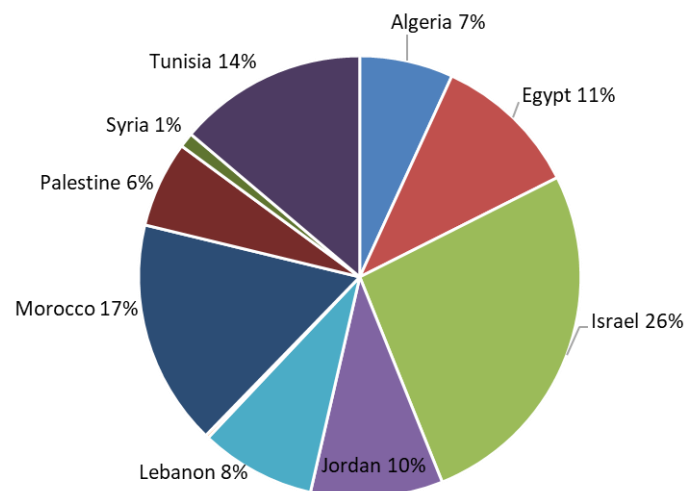
The budget for the Southern Mediterranean makes up **over 20% of the entire international credit mobility budget** and so far has enabled the establishment of 3.951 projects for bilateral partnerships, which plan to organise **mobility for almost 44 000 students, researchers, and staff**.

The **Politechnika Bialstoka (PL)** focuses on Northern African universities for its mobility agreements, working with universities in Guelma and Batna (Algeria), Mansoura (Egypt), Marrakech (Morocco) and Monastir (Tunisia) in projects selected in 2018 and 2019, which together plan two-way exchange of over 50 students and staff.

### Southern Mediterranean – mobility per country:

Erasmus+ student and staff mobility between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean:

**3 951 projects, almost 44 000 people moving (2015-2019)**



ICM provides opportunities for Southern Mediterranean countries to exchange with all European programme countries. Jordanian HEIs together have agreements with 25 Programme Countries, and **Princess Sumaya University of Technology (PUST)** in Jordan exchanges with 27 universities in 12 different countries. UK. All this mobility – some 333 students and staff in projects selected between 2015 and 18 – has been instrumental in the setting up of PUST's International Relations Office.

\* Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey

## Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMDs) 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.

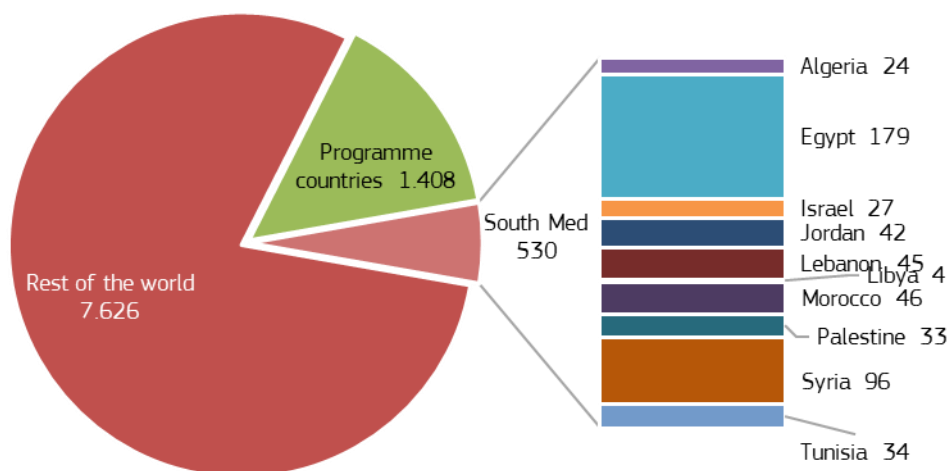
Students can apply to these programmes even if the university where they studied is not involved in any of them. They have to look for the available programmes in the EMJMD Catalogue and apply directly to the programme coordinator: [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/emjmd-catalogue\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/emjmd-catalogue_en)

Institutions from Eastern Partnership countries can also be part of the consortia that deliver these programmes, as Full Partners, which means they officially award degrees, or as Associated Partners, where they participate in the programme in some kind of capacity, but do not award the actual joint degree.

### South Mediterranean partners

From 2014 to 2019, five different universities from Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Tunisia have been involved as full hosting partners in seven EMJMDs selected between 2014 and 2019. The 204 Erasmus Mundus programmes selected in this period included an associate role for South Mediterranean organisations on 92 occasions.

## Erasmus Mundus scholarships awarded to Master students, 2014-2018



**TPTI** is a joint master [programme](#) providing a thorough training in the assessment and management of industrial and technical sites and their heritage.

*Techniques, Patrimoine, Territoires de l'Industrie : Histoire, Valorisation, Didactique* is coordinated by the University of Paris Sorbonne. It involves other partners from Brazil, the Czech Republic, Italy Mexico, Portugal Spain, as well as Sfax University from Tunisia, representing the region, which offers a specialisation in the archaeology of local development.

Students study the first three semesters in Paris, Padua and Evora, then split the fourth semester between the defence of their thesis and a specialisation to be followed in Oviedo (ES), Alicante (ES), Prague (CZ), Sfax (TN), Curitiba (BR) or Puebla (MX). After graduation many continue in research, or embark on careers in archeology, curation, or tourism promotion.

### Erasmus Mundus and Southern Mediterranean, 2014-2019



530 scholarships  
for Master students



99 instances of participation  
from South Med organisations

### Did you know... ?

#### A policy dialogue on higher education

Besides Erasmus+, since 2012, the European Commission has been animating a policy dialogue on higher education with countries from the Southern Mediterranean. Representatives from ministries and universities from both shores of the Mediterranean meet every two years. In between, technical seminars are organised on specific subjects of common interest.

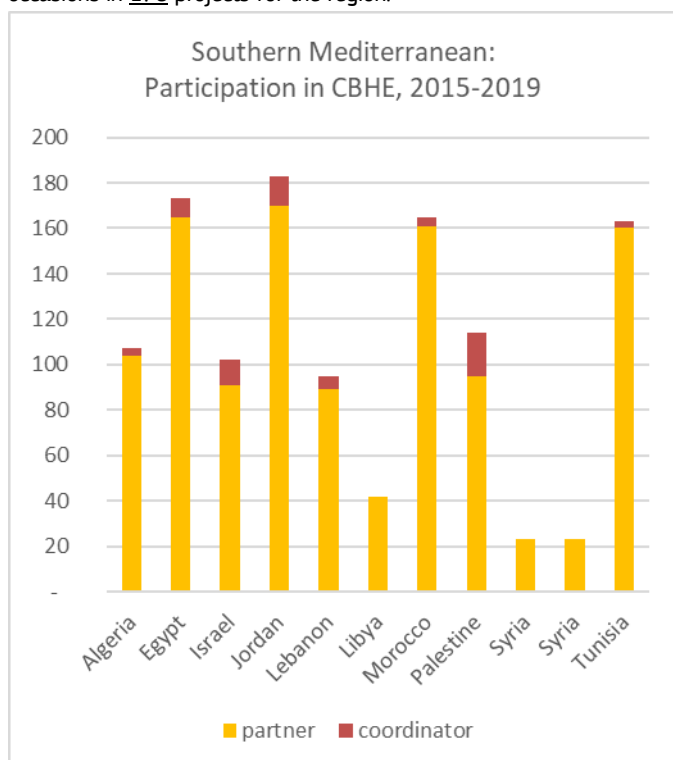
[http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/international-cooperation/world-policy-dialogue/southern-mediterranean\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/international-cooperation/world-policy-dialogue/southern-mediterranean_en)

## Capacity Building in Higher Education

There are two types of Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) projects, which all last from two to three years. **Joint projects** are aimed at modernising and reforming higher education institutions, developing new curricula, improving governance, and building relationships between higher education institutions and enterprises.

**Structural projects** can also tackle policy topics and issues, preparing the ground for higher education reform, in cooperation with national authorities.

Capacity building projects can be addressed to a group of South Med countries or a single country and they can also be cross-regional and include partners both from different regions. So far, institutions from the Southern Mediterranean take part on 1,123 occasions in 176 projects for the region.



## Capacity-building projects

2014-2019



176 projects



1 123 instances of participation

from Southern Mediterranean countries

## Professional Standards Framework for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in Lebanese Universities

This national structural [project](#) coordinated by Université Saint-Esprit de Kaslik, Lebanon, develops Lebanese Professional Standards in Teaching and Learning and cooperating for innovation and exchange of good practices and experiences relevant to similar frameworks established in Europe. It supports mainly the professional development of staff engaged in teaching, and fosters dynamic approaches to teaching and learning through creativity, innovation and continuous development in diverse academic disciplines and/or professional settings. The partnership includes nine Lebanese Institutions, as well as the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and five European partners.

## Jean Monnet Activities

Jean Monnet (JM) activities aim to develop EU studies worldwide. For over 25 years 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 and a number of associations in the domain of EU studies.

Out of a total of 1,500 successful applications to Jean Monnet between 2014 and 2019, **10 are from South Mediterranean countries**, managed by institutions from Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco and Jordan and comprise 6 JM Modules, 2 JM Network, 1 centre of excellence and 1 JM Project.. See some [examples](#).

## Refugees Education Support in MENA countries

This regional [project](#) makes it easier for refugee students coming from the Syrian conflict and located in Lebanon, Jordan and KRG (Iraq) to access higher education and the job market. It does this by setting up Refugee Student Operational Support Units, small offices whose mission is to blend specific services supporting the refugee students in resuming their academic training path.

The project partnership includes universities from Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and five European partners. It is coordinated by UNIMED, Italy.

## Co-construction d'une Offre de Formation à Finalité d'Employabilité Elevée"

This structural project pilots professional bachelor degrees in Algeria to answer industry needs for middle managerial staff who can quickly get operational. It involves industry in the building of attractive pilot bachelor degree programmes, thereby building nation-wide cooperation between industry and universities. The consortium includes the Ministry for Higher Education and Research (MESRS), nine universities and two industry organisations from Algeria and six European partners, under the coordination of l'Université de Montpellier, France.

## Nexus of European Centers Abroad for Research on EHEA

The Jean Monnet NEAR-EU [network](#), coordinated by Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, is setting up Bologna Resource Centers (BRC), which will act as inter-regional, collaborative academic spaces to study of European higher education policy and academic internationalization. These BRCs will evolve into a network of prominent academic units in the field of European Studies from outside the EU - Israel, Singapore, Canada and New Zealand -as well as from Germany, Slovenia and Greece. Network meetings will be devoted to two main professional areas: first, methodological sessions that will develop research tools for the academic field, and second, mutual learning sessions from each national/regional case-study.

## Opportunities in the field of Youth

### (a) Mobility Projects for Young People and Youth Workers

Organisations from countries in the Southern Mediterranean 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 2014 and 2019, 9313 Southern Mediterranean young people participated in youth projects in Europe while 6348 participants were hosted in Southern Mediterranean countries.

#### • Youth Workers Mobility

Between 2014 and 2019, 4261 Southern Mediterranean youth workers participated in youth projects (including training, job shadowing) in Europe while over 1711 youth workers were hosted in Southern Mediterranean countries.

#### • Volunteering Projects (individual or groups)

Between 2014 and 2019, 626 Southern Mediterranean volunteers carried out European Volunteering Service in Europe while over 931 volunteers were hosted in Southern Mediterranean countries.

### (b) Youth dialogue with policy makers

Erasmus+ also provides funding for initiatives that promote the active participation of young people in democratic life and foster debate around the major issues affecting youth.

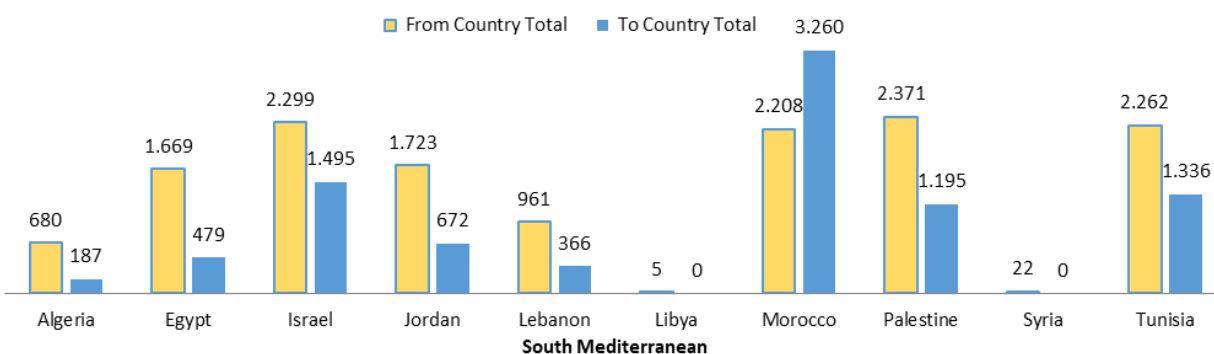
Projects can take the form of meetings, conferences, public consultations and thematic events. Between 2014 and 2019, 252 Southern Mediterranean young people participated in such projects.

#### The different faces of democracy. Pluralism and Change in European and Arab Societies.

In this youth mobility project, six participants from each of the following six countries - Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia - met for 10 days in Germany to talk about democracy in Europe and in Arab countries.

Providing concepts for handling pluralism, for dealing with religion influencing politics, for combating extremism through civic intervention and for strengthening civil society are the major objectives of this project. Visits to NGOs and model projects, diversity education concepts, dialogue training and civic intervention approaches aim at inspiring participants to develop further activities and concepts in their home countries.

Erasmus+ Youth Strand participants - 2014-19



### Capacity Building in the Field of Youth

Capacity Building in the Field of Youth projects are based on multilateral partnerships. They cover a range of activities that strengthen the capacity and internationalisation of youth organisations in Partner Countries of the region and Erasmus+ programme countries, enhance competences of young leaders and youth workers in **South Mediterranean countries**. In 2018 and 2019 **12** projects for the region with Tunisian coordinators were selected: together these involved **45** organisations. A total of **2099** individuals are directly and indirectly involved in the projects. See some [examples](#).

### Did you know... ?

#### eTwinningPlus and Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange

**eTwinningPlus** offers a safe web-based platform for staff in schools (teachers, head teachers, librarians, etc.) to collaborate and develop projects with schools in Europe and in some neighbouring countries. **Tunisia, Jordan** and **Lebanon** participate in this action. **The Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange** is a ground-breaking project enabling youth in Europe and the ten Southern Mediterranean countries to engage in meaningful intercultural experiences online, as part of their formal or non-formal education.

### More information:

Erasmus+ website: [http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node\\_en](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](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en)

Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association: [www.em-a.eu](http://www.em-a.eu)

Study in Europe: <http://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/>

Erasmus+ Youth information & resources centre: [www.salto-youth.net/rc/euomed](http://www.salto-youth.net/rc/euomed)

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