



Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
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An action-driven organization with a common ambition

High Level Working Group on Employment and Labour The UfM Regional Index for Employment Programs

Brussels, 22 March 2018

The Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4Jobs)

- Med4Jobs is the flagship initiative of the UfM to help increase the employability of youth and women, close the gap between labour demand and supply, and foster a culture of entrepreneurship and private sector development. Since its launch in 2013, 12 Med4Jobs projects have been labelled dealing with employability, job intermediation, and business enablers.
- A mid-term review of the program was launched in late 2016 and was finalized in June 2017, with the aim of determining the fulfilment of development objectives, the program's efficiency, the primary and secondary impacts and its sustainability.
- The initiative benefits from the expertise of the Med4Jobs Advisory Board, whose members include the ILO, UNIDO, OECD, ETF, GIZ and UNCTAD. Annual meetings bring the Advisory Board together with other influential organizations and institutions working in employability, job creation and with SMEs in the region.

The Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs (Med4Jobs) – (Cont.)

- In view of building synergies and strengthening cooperation with UfM partners and institutions, Med4Jobs initiative was recently presented to the Economic Committee of the UfM Parliamentary Assembly (PA-UfM) and discussed in light of the region's current challenges, notably high unemployment rates among young people and refugees' influx pressure on the economic and social conditions of hosting communities.
- Currently the UfM have five labelled projects under the Med4Jobs initiative.

UfM Regional index on Employment Programs

- Pursuant to the Ministerial Declaration, the UfM Secretariat is amplifying its action towards improving the employment situation in the region through the promotion of projects in line with regional employment, employability and decent work priorities and in cooperation with relevant actors.
- As an enabling tool, a database of bilateral and regional cooperation projects on employment and labour has been set up, **to help identify and address gaps in regional labour market programs**. The UfM Secretariat is working with partner organizations, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), to set-up this tool, taking into account information available in other existing databases, and based on the regular information received on such programs from the Member States.
- The objectives and rationale of the database were presented to the member States to the UfM HLWG on Employment and Labour (March 2017). **An online template was created to collect information on employment interventions in the region (<http://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-regional-employment-index-programme-database/>).**

Scope and geographical area

- The database is providing an overview of the regional, bilateral and national projects, programs and initiatives focusing on job creation in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (15 UfM Member States) by identifying the ones **already finished, ongoing, or continuously operating in the region.**
- The collection process:
 - UfM Secretariat – M4J initiative
 - UfM Member States
 - Youth Inventory ILO Platform
 - UNOSSC Platform
 - GIZ Project Data Platform
 - Database of national practices on European employment policies and measures

Data analysis and identified gaps

- One of the main specific objectives of the UfM Regional Database for Employment is to identify the needs and address gaps in regional and national labour market programs.
- Therefore, 135 initiatives have been initially identified for the database in the framework of the recommendations and priorities to foster socio-economic prosperity issued from relevant multilateral organizations.
- The analysis has covered the main variables of the initiatives gathered in the Database: 1) **Main focus**, 2) **Target Group**, 3) **Profile of the promoters**, 4) **Geographical area**, 5) **Project dimension**

Data analysis and identified gaps (Cont.)

1) Main Focus

- 17 are related to **business creation** and **business growth**,
- 23 are related to **entrepreneurship**,
- 40 are focused on **SMEs** as a biggest area (30% of the identified initiatives).

- **Employability, Skills** and **Training** is the second biggest area with 31 programs (23%).

- 29 initiatives are focused on **Employment Policies** (21%).

- Each of the other areas of focus account under 10%, namely 11 of them focus on **Job Matching** (8%), 11% on **Education and VET** (8%), and 8% on **Access to funding and microfinancing** (6%).

Data analysis and identified gaps (Cont.)

2) Target Group

- Youth unemployment in the economy is well identified as a top priority with 65 initiatives addressing youth needs.
- 10% of the total initiatives have **entrepreneurs** as a target group, highlighting the importance of the starting-up of new business or activity as one of the main areas of focus to generate more socio-economic prosperity in the region.

3) Profile of the promoters

- As far as the promoters' profile is concerned, we note that most of them (59) are private or independent stakeholders (non-profit, networks, etc.), which represents 44% of the total initiatives.
- The second big group of promoters are International Organizations (43 initiatives, 32% of the total), followed by Government and National Development Agencies (33 initiatives, 24% of the total).

Data analysis and identified gaps (Cont.)

4) Geographical area

- The geographical scope of the projects in the Database is regional , bilateral and national projects in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (mainly the 15 UfM Member States, including 4 projects from Malta, Serbia, Bahrain and Lithuania.
- From the analysis performed of this variable, we conclude that 62 of the projects analyzed (46% of the total) have a national scope, particularly in:
 - Morocco (17), Tunisia (13), Algeria (12), Egypt (10), Palestine (2), Serbia (1), Malta (1), Turkey (1), Israel (1), Jordan (1), Lithuania (1), Bahrain (1).
- The rest of them have an international, regional , or bilateral scope (73 projects, 54% of the total).
- The fact that most of the projects have a wide scope at the regional level is considered positive for a balanced socio-economic development of the Mediterranean region.

Data analysis and identified gaps (Cont.)

5) Project dimension

- From the 135 initially identified, 59 have been considered “programs” (44% of the total), 36 “initiatives” (27% of the total) and 36 “projects” (27 of the total).

Thank You

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