



Regions and cities European week Brussels 7-10 October 2019

Workshop
**Pathways to entrepreneurial development in the
Mediterranean**

***Nathalie Crete , Advisor - DG EMPL D Mobility of Workers
European Commission***

The EU and the Union for the Mediterranean

- *A frame for dialogue since 2008*
- *A strong partnership to define and accompany processes*
- *An entry point for action*
- *A regional approach to tackle the Mediterranean strength and challenges*

The UfM Ministerial Declaration on Employment and Labour – Cascais, 3 April 2019

Adopted on the occasion of the 4th UfM Ministerial Meeting on Employment and Labour, the Ministerial Declaration sets the scene for the years to come up to 2022.

- It recalls the political complexity existing in the Mediterranean region, in terms of regional stability, human development and regional integration
- It highlights the **structural challenges** faced on Labour Markets of the region
- It stresses the need to focus further their efforts in future on **four concrete priorities for action**

The Cascais four concrete priorities for action

- **supporting** decent job creation and entrepreneurship,
- **mobilising** public and private stakeholders to create partnerships and synergies,
- **building** inclusive Labour markets to integrate potentially vulnerable and disadvantaged groups ,
- **investing** in quality education systems and training, skills and employability in a changing world of work.

The structural challenges faced in the region

- the high rates of informal employment and structural unemployment and underemployment,
- the impediments which prevent promising small enterprises from growing and limit job creation by the formal private sector,
- the mismatch between supply and demand in terms of skills, the weakness of the school-to-work transition,
- the low investment in vocational education and training (VET) which hinders social cohesion and economic competitiveness,
- the insufficient role given to skill development processes both for youth and adults,
- the high exposure of potentially vulnerable groups, such as young people and women, to unemployment, precariousness and social discontent,
- the persisting negative effects on labour markets of the informal economy /undeclared work
- and finally for several countries of the region important and continuous flows of refugees and migrants, which may reveal, generate or increase economic, geographic, and social tensions or unbalances.

The importance of monitoring and dialogue to build impact-oriented Employment and Labour Market strategies

- The main added-value of the Cascais Ministerial Declaration is to stress the need to put in place and to maintain well-functioning national monitoring processes and, still on a voluntary basis, the regular sharing of national reports with the UfM Secretariat to help mapping regional trends. This would lead to proposing a **regional monitoring framework** before the end of 2020.
- This should be complemented by the creation of a **Community of Practice, covering the four priorities for action** mentioned to contribute increasing synergies on employment and labour between the relevant international and regional frameworks in order to foster complementarities and maximise impacts.

In substance, taking the words of Nasser Kamel - Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

*"the recent Ministerial meeting on employment marked a key regional effort in calling, not only for coordinated efforts and more effective policy reforms, but also for **integrated approaches** that emphasise **youth employability, women's socio-economic empowerment, the promotion of social dialogue, as well as skills and job matching, just to name a few. Success in UfM efforts in these policy fields can be partially attributed to the conviction that **regional cooperation is not a choice but, rather, a mutually beneficial necessity.**"***

What does the EU come along with ? The European Pillar of Social Rights

A set of **20 Principles and rights** dealing with **three main issues....**

- *Equal opportunities and access to the labour market,*
- *Fair labour conditions, and*
- *Social protection and inclusion.*

... which **set the scene also for the EU support to the Mediterranean Neighbouring countries .**

Equal opportunities and access to the labour market

- Education, training and life-long learning
- Gender equality
- Equal opportunities
- Active support to employment

Fair labour conditions

- Adaptable employment
- Wages
- Information about employment conditions and protection in case of dismissals
- Social dialogue and involvement of workers
- Work-life balance
- Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection

Social protection and inclusion

- Childcare and support to children
- Social protection
- Unemployment benefits
- Minimum income
- Old age income and pensions
- Health care
- Inclusion of people with disabilities
- Long-term care
- Housing and assistance for the homeless
- Access to essential services

The promotion of the Role of Social Dialogue in the EU–Med relations

The UfM Ministers welcomed the **“Charter to Promote Social Dialogue in the South Mediterranean: Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco”**, prepared in the context of SOLiD, a project prepared with EU support and signed by partner countries (Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan) which highlights the importance of a sound social dialogue and concertation as well of the role of civil society.

Developing a responsible business :the Role of Social Dialogue,

An enhanced social dialogue is a key element for:

- Promoting shared solutions to create more inclusive forms of economic growth, in line with the sustainable development goals (SDGs), especially SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 10 on reducing inequality within and among countries.
- Generating tailor-made consensual responses able to harness, to the benefit of all, the transformational changes in the economy and labour markets (transition from the informal to the formal economy or to digital economy, demographic changes, globalisation and climate change).

A renewed dialogue with Civil Society and private sector....

La première conférence "EU Med means Business – Construire l’avenir de l’entrepreneuriat dans le voisinage Sud" organisée par la Commission européenne s’est tenue à Bruxelles les 21 et 22 Mai 2019 , parallèlement à des événements en Tunisie, Égypte, au Liban et au Maroc. Quelques 150 jeunes entrepreneurs, dirigeants économiques et moteurs du changement socio-économique du voisinage Sud ont échangé afin de formuler des recommandations à l’intention de responsables politiques.

L'événement s'est concentré sur les aspects suivants:

- attirer davantage d'investissements étrangers et nationaux et améliorer les niveaux de création d'emplois;*
- libérer le potentiel du secteur privé, et notamment des petites entreprises, qui créent les nouveaux emplois les plus durables;*
- stimuler les talents et les compétences des jeunes et promouvoir l'esprit d'entreprise et l'innovation afin de réduire les taux élevés de chômage des jeunes.*

....that triggered a set of recommendations

*Les 150 jeunes entrepreneurs, dirigeants économiques et moteurs du changement socio-économique du voisinage Sud participants à la conférence ont formulé des recommandations à l'intention de responsables politiques, puis ont voté afin **d'identifier leurs douze priorités principales d'action en matière d'investissement***

- ***These 12 recommendations are the priorities to be implemented by policy makers across the region and in the EU to, among other important goals, attract quality investment, create viable ecosystems for entrepreneurship, stimulate innovation and start-ups, and enable SMEs to grow and create jobs.***

The 12 recommendations focus

- ***Enabling the emergence of a functioning entrepreneurship ecosystem***
- ***Allowing young people to acquire the necessary skills and develop an entrepreneurial mind set***
- ***Ensuring that investments create sustainable and decent jobs***
- ***Bringing down barriers to growth for MSMEs***
- ***Boosting innovation and the creation of companies***
- ***Attracting and keeping talent(s), a valuable resource for entrepreneurs***

Objectives of EU support to the private sector in the South

- **Support** governments to remove administrative and legal barriers to entrepreneurship
- **Provide** training to match available skills with the needs of businesses
- **Create** better access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups
- **Incentivise** innovation and technological modernisation (including in the digital economy)
- **Promote** greener, sustainable and social business models
- **Stimulate** trade and investment opportunities within the region and beyond

EU Financial support

- **European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI):** €10.8 billion allocated for the region pour la période 2014-2020, près de 4,2 milliards d'EUR ont été consacrés jusqu'ici à la **coopération socio-économique**. Ce chiffre augmentera avant la fin de l'exercice budgétaire en cours et devrait atteindre environ 50 % de la dotation totale pour l'ensemble du voisinage méridional
- En outre, 356 millions d'EUR ont été acheminés par l'intermédiaire de l'IEV vers le **programme Erasmus+** dans le voisinage méridional (2014-2020).
- Dans le cadre du programme de l'UE pour la recherche et l'innovation **Horizon 2020**, le voisinage méridional bénéficie d'un montant total de 763,9 millions d'EUR, qui touche plus de 1 500 participants et près de 1 200 projets.
- **EU External Investment Plan** €4.5 billion EU support leveraging €44 billion of investment in EU Neighbourhood countries
- **EU Initiative for Financial Inclusion** providing finance for 200.000 enterprises in the Region .

Conclusion

The increased global competition strikes all States whether Northern or Southern.

To build the EU-Mediterranean partnership around **inclusive growth and job creation and opportunities**, it is essential to give the younger generation a chance to provide for their future.

Therefore **a vibrant business environment allowing** for individual entrepreneurs to prosper and to turn ideas into reality depends drastically on how far it has been invested in people.



European
Commission

Thank You