

We, the undersigned institutions of higher education and research in the Euro-Mediterranean region, affirm our shared commitment to confronting the urgent and interconnected challenges of climate and environmental change. The Mediterranean is a recognized climate hotspot – and we believe universities must lead the response. They shape mindsets, inspire collective action and mobilize entire societies toward a sustainable future.

The Mediterranean is warming 20% faster than the global average. Rising sea levels, extreme heat, biodiversity loss and water scarcity are already threatening ecosystems, economies, and human wellbeing. These environmental pressures are compounded by fragile peace, rising social tensions and growing displacement risks, highlighting the need for an integrated response rooted in sustainability and cooperation.

Through the Euromed University Initiative for Climate Action, we unite to empower future generations with the knowledge, skills and values needed to shape a just, resilient and sustainable Mediterranean region. In addressing climate change, we embrace the broader framework of sustainability in all its dimensions – environmental, social and economic – recognizing their interdependence and centrality to lasting solutions.

We reimagine the role of universities in the Mediterranean – not only to respond to the climate crisis, but to nurture human potential, protect our shared ecosystems and advance justice for all.

Together, we commit to:

1. Advance Regional Cooperation in Climate Education

- Map the existing climate-related academic offer and make it visible to students across the region.
- Develop curriculum guidelines to regionally standardize tertiary climate education.
- Establish joint Euromed master's and PhD programs on climate governance.

2. Make Climate Education a Curricular Baseline

- Integrate sustainability across disciplines, making climate literacy a graduation requirement.
- Expand interdisciplinary faculty training on climate issues.
- Include arts, humanities and social sciences into climate education to foster systems thinking, ethical reasoning and a deeper understanding of social justice.

3. Include Students in Climate Governance and Action

- Encourage regional mobility to expose students to different climate realities and solutions.
- Increase graduate employability by aligning education with the evolving demands of green markets.
- Support youth-led climate initiatives, campaigns, associations and campus actions.

4. Support Innovation Smart Hubs

- Promote regional and local living labs for broad societal co-design of climate solutions.
- Adopt sustainability indicators and carbon neutrality targets for university campuses.
- Foster university-based incubators and accelerators to support climate-related startups.

In addition to our collective regional action, we commit ourselves to engage individually at the local level with all relevant stakeholders – governmental authorities, civil society, business and media – to support coordinated and impactful climate action.

We join forces with like-minded university initiatives around the world and commit to strengthened cooperation, notably under the UNESCO-driven Greening Education Partnership.

We call on local, national, regional and international authorities to support our efforts and align investments accordingly.

We call on our students to be bold, creative and relentless in driving the change our region needs.

We will continue to promote the initiative at relevant regional and global platforms, including COP30 in Belém, Brazil, to broaden our coalition and deepen our impact.

Under the coordination of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED), we will define a common roadmap to implement this vision.

Together, we will transform Mediterranean higher education into a cornerstone of regional climate resilience.

Universities and other institutions working in the field of higher education and research are invited to endorse the Manifesto and join the Initiative. Endorsements should be submitted through an official expression of support from the institution's leadership using the appropriate template and sending it by email to education@ufmsecretariat.org with the subject line: Manifesto Endorsement.

SIGNATORY INSTITUTIONS

Girona Manifesto Community

(last update: 8 November 2026)

117 institutions | **22** countries

ALBANIA 2

- Catholic University "Our Lady of Good Counsel"
- University "Ismail Qemali" of Vlora

ALGERIA 8

- EPAU – Polytechnic School of Architecture and Urbanism
- Mouloud Mammeri University Tizi-Ouzou
- University Abderrahmane Mira of Bejaia
- University of Algiers 1, Benyoucef Benkhedda
- University of Ghardaia
- University of Saida Dr Moulay Tahar
- University of Sétif 1 Ferhat Abbas
- University of Sétif 2

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 1

- International Burch University

BULGARIA 1

- Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy (NVNA)

CYPRUS 5

- Cyprus University of Technology
- European University Cyprus
- University of Cyprus
- University of Nicosia
- University of Limassol

EGYPT 4

- Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport
- Deraya University
- Matrouh University
- University of Cairo – Development Research and Technological Planning Center

FRANCE 3

- Aix-Marseille University
- University of Corsica Pasquale-Paoli
- University of Toulon

GREECE 10

- Democritus University of Thrace
- Hellenic Mediterranean University
- Hellenic Open University
- Ionian University
- Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences
- Technical University of Crete
- University of Crete
- University of the Aegean
- University of Thessaly
- MIO-ECSDE

IRAQ * 6

- Al-Mustaqbal University
- Duhok Polytechnic University
- Erbil Polytechnic University
- University of Duhok
- University of Raparin
- University of Sulaimani

ITALY 17

- Ca' Foscari University of Venice
- Guglielmo Marconi University
- International Telematic University UNINETTUNO
- Iuav University of Venice
- Mercatorum University
- Politecnico di Torino
- University of Bologna
- University of Brescia
- University of Macerata
- University of Padova
- University of Palermo
- University of Salento
- University of Sassari – Desertification Research Centre
- University of Siena
- University of Trieste
- University of Urbino
- MEDAERE – Mediterranean Association of Environmental and Resource Economists

JORDAN 5

- Al-Balqa Applied University
- Al Hussein Technical University
- University of Jordan
- University of Petra
- Zarqa University

LEBANON 4

- American University of Beirut
- Antonine University
- Holy Spirit University of Kaslik
- Lebanese University

LIBYA 9

- Azzaytuna University
- Gulf of Sidra University
- Libyan International Medical University
- Misurata University
- Sebha University
- University of Derna
- University of Tobruk
- University of Tripoli
- University of Zawia

MOROCCO 7

- Abdelmalek Essaâdi University
- Euromed University of Fes
- Hassan II University of Casablanca
- Mohammed First University
- Private University of Marrakech
- University Ibn Tofail of Kenitra
- University Sultan Moulay Slimane

PALESTINE 3

- An-Najah National University
- Hebron University
- Israa University

PORTUGAL 5

- ISEC Lisboa – Higher Institute of Education and Sciences
- Instituto Superior de Gestão
- University of Coimbra
- University of Evora
- University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro

SLOVENIA 3

- Euro-Mediterranean University – EMUNI
- University of Maribor
- University of Nova Gorica

SPAIN 8

- Technical University of Cartagena
- University of Alicante
- University of Balearic Islands
- University of Barcelona
- University of Girona
- University of Murcia
- Rovira i Virgili University
- GUNI – Global University Network for Innovation

SYRIA 3

- Arab International University
- Arab University of Science and Technology
- Damascus University

TUNISIA 9

- National Institute of Research and Physical-Chemical Anaysis (INRAP)
- University of Carthage – Faculté des sciences juridiques
- University of Gabès
- University of Jendouba
- University of Kairouan
- University of Monastir
- University of Sousse
- University of Tunis
- University of Tunis El Manar – ISSBAT

TÜRKIYE 2

- Çağ University
- İstanbul Kültür University

YEMEN * 2

- Hadhramout University
- University of Aden

** Not Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean*