



## Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA

Fourth Edition

### Project Card

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Mediterranean Youth Academy (MYA)</b>
<b>Proposed date for implementation</b>	<b>November 13 - 17, 2025</b> (Including travel days)
<b>Version/edition (If applicable)</b>	<b>Fourth edition</b>
<b>Name of Promoter(s) (<i>specify lead promoter in case of consortium</i>):</b>	<b>Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development – MYF(<i>lead</i>), Centre International de Formation Européenne – Cife and the Egyptian Ministry of Youth and Sports</b>
<b>Geographical scope (<i>regional/sub-regional/transnational</i>):</b>	<b>Euro-Mediterranean</b>
<b>Location (<i>where the activities will take place</i>):</b>	<b>Nice, France</b>



## Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA

Fourth Edition

<b>Call for Applicants (dd/mm/yyyy):</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> July – 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025</b>
<b>Project duration (<i>in months</i>):</b>	<b>10 M (July 2025: launch of the call for application – April 2026: the end of developing/implementing the youth led initiatives).</b>

### Project Brief:

The fourth edition of MYA will build on the experiences gained from the previous three editions held in Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt, and Barcelona, Spain under the patronage of the Egyptian Prime Minister, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Egypt, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Anna Lindh Foundation, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) International Organization for Migration (IOM), The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and many international and regional partners in line with the Academy's long-term strategy, which aims to organize the event in a different country each year.

Previous editions of the MYA have garnered significant recognition for its impact on empowering youth. It focused on climate action, gender equality,



## Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA

### Fourth Edition

social inclusion, human rights, human fraternity, youth employment, and migration, and brought together participants to foster dialogue and skill-building in these critical areas. The 4th edition will continue to build on this legacy, providing a platform for young leaders to develop solutions, share experiences, and strengthen their role as agents of change in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

This edition of the Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA seeks to qualify and prepare at least 70 - 80 young people from the Euro-Mediterranean countries through a four-day training program, aimed at promoting awareness and involving youth in the response to Euro-Mediterranean issues and challenges: specifically, climate change, gender inequality and youth unemployment.

The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the MYA will be hosted by Centre International de Formation Européenne – Cife from the 13th to the 17th of November 2025 (Including travel days) in Nice, France, back-to-back with the occasion of the **10th anniversary of our Master's in Mediterranean Studies**. This edition will specifically focus on three thematic clusters: namely, climate action & justice, gender equity & transformation, and youth employment & entrepreneurship.



## **Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA**

### **Fourth Edition**

During the workshops, the young participants will be stimulated to identify key policy recommendations linked to the 3 thematic clusters and to propose initiatives that are relevant for youth in the Euro-Mediterranean region. As a follow-up to participants, the MYF will also update a draft of the “Initiatives for the Mediterranean” guidebook that will provide insights on how youth-led initiatives can contribute to addressing issues widely felt in the Euro-Mediterranean region and discussed during the MYA.

The target audience of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the MYA is composed of ca. 70 - 80 young people from the Euro-Mediterranean region aged between 18 and 29 years old, selected through a call for applications. Particular attention will be given to the selection of vulnerable and marginalized groups, in terms of gender and geographical representation.

MYA aligns with the broader goals of empowering young people in the Euro-Mediterranean region by providing them with the tools and networks necessary to address challenges and drive sustainable development. Through the MYA, participants will benefit from workshops, interactive discussions, and capacity-building sessions designed to equip them with practical skills and foster cross-regional collaboration. The program’s focus on climate change, gender equity, youth employment and entrepreneurship



## **Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA**

### **Fourth Edition**

reflects the urgent need to address these interconnected issues while promoting inclusive and sustainable growth.

As the MYA grows in scope and impact, it continues to establish itself as a vital platform for fostering youth leadership and engagement across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

### **Project Description:**

---

The fourth edition of the MYA aims to:

- Qualify and prepare at least 70 - 80 young people from the Euro-Mediterranean region through a four-day training program, aimed at promoting awareness and involving youth in the response to Mediterranean issues and challenges: specifically, climate action & justice, gender equity & transformation, youth employment, and entrepreneurship.
- Engage 70 - 80 young participants in proposing recommendations to policymakers on the key topics that will be discussed during the workshops, as well as in proposing relevant initiatives to possibly be implemented in the Mediterranean region.
- Contribute to the drafting of the “Initiatives for the Mediterranean” guidebook to be produced by MYF. The guidebook will provide



## **Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA**

### **Fourth Edition**

insights on how youth-led initiatives can contribute to addressing issues widely felt in the Euro-Mediterranean region and discussed during the MYA.

### **General MYA Objectives:**

---

- Enhance youth participation to achieve active engagement in the decision and policy-making processes.
- Build the capacity of youth to keep pace with development and face global challenges (technological, environmental, and climatic).
- Contribute to achieving and promoting the SDGs 4,5,6,8,10,13,16, and 17.
- Empower young people by providing the necessary skills to launch national and regional initiatives and projects linked to the Mediterranean issues.
- Opening a dialogue platform between youth and decision-makers and working on innovative and sustainable solutions and recommendations in the Mediterranean region.
- Contribute to the “Initiatives for the Mediterranean” guidebook as a skill-building tool to youth-related organisations and young individuals keen to design social initiatives in the Euro-Mediterranean.



## Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA

Fourth Edition

### Expected Results and Outputs:

As regards the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the MYA, expected outputs include the following figures:

- At least 70 - 80 young people trained on critical Mediterranean issues: specifically, climate action & climate justice, gender equity & transformation, and youth employment & entrepreneurship.
- 2-3 youth-related initiatives/policy papers formulated through a bottom-up approach that focus on issues relevant for the UfM as well as other MYA stakeholders in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- A final report of the event will be drafted by MYF, gathering the proposed recommendations and youth-related initiatives.



## Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA

Fourth Edition

### **MYA 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Clusters and Components:**

The thematic clusters that will be specifically addressed during the fourth edition of the MYA are fully in line with the Euro – Mediterranean priorities and the UfM Youth Strategy 2030. Each of them encompasses specific components that tackle relevant sub-topics, such as:

#### **Thematic cluster 1: Climate Action & Justice:**

Aligned with the latest outcomes of COP discussions, this cluster aims to address the critical issues of climate change adaptation, mitigation, and equitable transition. It includes the following components:

##### **Component 1: Loss and Damage Mechanisms**

- Exploring innovative funding and compensation mechanisms for addressing loss and damage caused by climate change, with a focus on supporting vulnerable Mediterranean communities. This includes developing regional frameworks for financing and cooperation.

##### **Component 2: Just Energy Transition**

- Promoting equitable energy transitions through renewable energy adoption, capacity building for green jobs, and ensuring accessibility to clean energy technologies for underrepresented groups and low-income communities.





## **Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA**

Fourth Edition

### **Component 3: Carbon Markets and Climate Finance Innovations**

- Exploring advanced mechanisms for carbon trading and finance, including leveraging blockchain technologies for transparent transactions. This component also examines pathways for Mediterranean countries to access and optimize global climate funds to support regional adaptation and mitigation efforts.

### **Thematic Cluster 2: Gender Equity & Transformation**

This cluster focuses on addressing the structural, cultural, and social barriers to gender justice across the Euro-Mediterranean region through context-specific, intersectional, and transformative approaches. It includes the following components:

#### **Component 1: Tackling Structural and Institutional Discrimination**

- Addressing the embedded gender biases in laws, public policies, and institutional frameworks. This includes revising discriminatory policies, promoting gender-responsive budgeting, and strengthening women's access to leadership and decision-making roles. Special attention is given to



## **Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA**

### **Fourth Edition**

bridging gender data gaps and institutionalizing gender mainstreaming practices across sectors.

### **Component 2: Challenging Gender Stereotypes Between North and South**

- Confronting the cultural and symbolic narratives that reinforce unequal gender norms across the region. This includes deconstructing orientalist tropes portraying Southern women as passive victims and resisting conservative framings that depict gender justice as a Western imposition. Intercultural dialogue, media literacy, and feminist knowledge exchange are used to counter dominant stereotypes and foster mutual understanding.

### **Component 3: Advancing Gender & Social Inclusion**

- Promoting inclusive policies that account for the intersecting challenges faced by women, and marginalized communities, particularly migrants and refugees. This component prioritizes access to healthcare, education, and social protection, while promoting gender-sensitive labor market integration. Emphasis is placed on addressing class, legal status, and ethnicity as interlocking dimensions of exclusion.



## Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA

Fourth Edition

### **Thematic cluster 3: Youth Employment & Entrepreneurship:**

This cluster highlights advanced methodologies for fostering youth employment, enhancing entrepreneurial ecosystems, and strengthening labor market policies. It includes the following components:

#### **Component 1: AI-Powered Vocational Training Systems**

- Integrating AI and machine learning into vocational training to provide personalized skill development pathways, with an emphasis on high-demand sectors like green energy and digital innovation.

#### **Component 2: Smart Entrepreneurship**

- Promoting a forward-thinking and innovation-driven approach to entrepreneurship, focusing on the use of digital tools, emerging technologies, and data-informed strategies in business creation. It supports young and aspiring entrepreneurs in developing agile, sustainable, and scalable ventures that respond to contemporary global challenges.

#### **Component 3: Entrepreneurship and Market Readiness for Youth**

- Focuses on equipping young people with the entrepreneurial mindset, future-oriented skills, and market access opportunities needed to



## Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA

### Fourth Edition

thrive in an evolving global economy. Emphasizes the integration of innovation-driven training systems, smart business development strategies, and labor market intelligence to enhance youth employability and startup resilience.

### Direct and Indirect Beneficiaries

**Direct beneficiaries:** MYA targets at least 70 - 80 young people from the Euro-Mediterranean aged from 18-29, including gathering youth leaders, entrepreneurs, researchers, and representatives of civic society organisations. The selection of participants will seek the highest level of balance in terms of gender and geographical representation. In any case, the working knowledge of English with a B2 CEFR minimum level will be a requisite to attend the MYA.

**Indirect beneficiaries:** The indirect beneficiaries will mainly be:

- the people involved in and benefiting from the 3-5 initiatives that will be identified during the MYA. These initiatives may focus on issues such as job creation, environmental sustainability, or social cohesion, and could have a positive impact on the wider community.
- The policymakers that will receive the recommendations proposed by the participants and gathered during the workshops.



## Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA

Fourth Edition

### Tentative Timetable:

Activity/event	Date
Opening the call for participation	24 <sup>th</sup> July, 2025. Time: 20:00 CET
Closing the call for participation	20 <sup>th</sup> August, 2025. Time: 23:59 CET
Notifying shortlisted	30 <sup>th</sup> August, 2025
A preparatory training before traveling (Online)	September - October 2025
MYA 4th edition	November 13-17, 2025 (including travel days)
Implementation of Initiatives for the Mediterranean	December 2025 - April 2026



## Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA

Fourth Edition

### The List of Partners: (ongoing)

The fourth edition of the MYA will be steered by an international coalition of partners. In this way, it will aim to enhance collaboration between youth organisations from the Euro Mediterranean countries with other international stakeholders.

<b>Potential partners</b>	
Union for the Mediterranean   UfM	Anna Lindh Foundation   ALF
European Institute of the Mediterranean   IEMed	Interreg NEXT MED
French Institute in Cairo	French Development Agency   ADF
SALTO – YOUTH	American University of Beirut   AUB
United Nations Development Program   UNDP	International Organization for Migration   IOM
EU Delegation to Egypt	Erasmus+ alumni networks (OCEANS Network, Erasmus Mundus Association)
Council of Europe	UN Women in Europe



## Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA

### Fourth Edition

Women's Studies Centre, University of Lodz	Central European University Vienna   CEU
Med Baltic Organization – Estonia	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit   GIZ
The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)	The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation   AECID
International Labour Organization (ILO)	Muslim Council of Elders

### For Communication:

1- Mr. Youssef Aroog

Elected Co-President of Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development - MYF

Email: [youssefaroog@myfmed.org](mailto:youssefaroog@myfmed.org)

Mob.: +201097352454

2- Ms. Yasmeen Aladdin

MYA Focal Point

Email: [mya@myfmed.org](mailto:mya@myfmed.org)



## Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA

Fourth Edition

### About Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development - MYF:

MYF is a registered non-profit organization based in Cairo, Egypt dedicated to youth/young women empowerment, workforce development, and economic inclusion. Established in 2018 and legally registered in 2019. Over the past 6 years, MYF has been implementing 26 EU-Funded projects and other 14 projects funded by GIZ, UfM, UN agencies, Anna Lindh Foundation and others in more than 18 countries in the Euro Med region, focusing on gender equality, climate change, entrepreneurship, youth inclusion. We work to support inclusive development, civic participation, and gender equality. MYF serves youth, by involving them in social life, especially youth and women with fewer opportunities to promote their participation in building youth/women-friendly societies.

**Key Milestones in MYF Journey: 2018:** Establishment of Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development -MYF **2019:** Obtaining the quality label from the European Union as a sending and hosting foundation to send/host volunteers to and from European Union countries. **2020:** Obtaining the King Hamad Award (King of the Kingdom of Bahrain) for youth empowerment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals - Youth Empowerment Category. **2021:** Obtaining the United Nations and BMW Prize for Innovation and Intercultural Dialogue (Intercultural Innovation Hub - IIH), with the support of Accenture. **2022:** Accreditation as a permanent observer member, to be the second Egyptian foundation in history to obtain permanent membership in the United Nations Framework Convention on





## Mediterranean Youth Academy – MYA

### Fourth Edition

Climate Change UNFCCC **2023:** Granted special advisory membership in the United Nations Economic and Social Council + Granted the status of public benefit from the Egyptian government (enjoying the privileges of public authority). **2024:** Obtaining the accreditation from (UNEP). **2025:** The Foundation has become a regional organization with the permits of the Egyptian government and has officially established its branch in the city of Montpellier, France. as a regional organization by the ministerial decision No. 4 of 2025.