



## PRESS RELEASE

**From The Barcelona Process to the Mediterranean Pact: what is the role of students in supporting Mediterranean dialogue between academia and civil society? The debate is opening today at the University of Girona!**

Rome, 01/10/2025 – After Barcelona, Tangiers and Palermo, the Mediterranean Student Summit is back for its fourth edition. From 1st to 3rd October 2025, the University of Girona, Spain, will welcome students from across the Mediterranean basin for three days of debate, exchange, and collective reflection.

Launched by UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union and the Erasmus Student Network (ESN), the Mediterranean Student Summit has become a key annual initiative where students from both shores of the Mediterranean gather to strengthen intercultural dialogue, work on common challenges, and make their voices heard.

This year, the Summit will be guided by a central question: “From The Barcelona Process to the Mediterranean Pact: what is the role of students in supporting Mediterranean dialogue between academia and civil society?”

Marking the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Process and taking place amid ongoing debates around the Mediterranean Pact, the Summit will focus on the role of students as bridges between academia and society. Participants will reflect on the third objective of the Declaration of Barcelona—rapprochement between peoples through a social, cultural and human partnership—as well as on the third mission of universities, which calls on higher education institutions to build strong connections with local communities to foster social, economic, and cultural development.

Over the three days, around 25 students from UNIMED member universities will take part in presentations, workshops, working groups and cultural activities, guided by international experts and institutional representatives.

The cohort of young participants will be enriched by 2 students from the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) and 2 young professionals from Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF), identified through comparable programmes aimed at strengthening student leadership and in line with this year’s emphasis on engagement with civil society and intercultural dialogue.

The Summit will be open by: Robert Martí Marly, Vice-Rector for Strategic Projects and Internationalisation, University of Girona, Petra Kezman, Senior Advisor, Union for the Mediterranean, Kherieh Rassas, UNIMED President (online), Alessandro Lamonica, Public Policy



Manager, Anna Lindh Foundation (online), and Simone Lepore, President of the Erasmus Student Network.

Throughout the Summit, students will work collaboratively on a set of recommendations that will be further refined during the final online meetings. By the conclusion of the process, these collective recommendations will be presented to policymakers and academic stakeholders, ensuring that students' perspectives are meaningfully included in shaping the future of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership

The fourth edition of the Mediterranean Student Summit is organised under the patronage of the Union for the Mediterranean. The initiative has also seen the contribution and the support of the University of Girona, the European Investment Bank Institute, the Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme and of many Universities of the Euro-Mediterranean region, members of the UNIMED Network.

More information about the initiative <https://www.uni-med.net/events/unimed-mediterranean-students-summit/>

For further information please contact [unimed@uni-med.net](mailto:unimed@uni-med.net)

**MSS**  
Mediterranean Student Summit  
2025

University of Girona, Spain  
October 1-3, 2025

Organised by  
unimed ESN  
Erasmus Student Network

With the support of  
Universitat de Girona

With the financial support of  
European Investment Bank Institute Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme

Under the patronage of  
Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
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