

# EMUNI

Report 2024





## About EMUNI

The Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), founded in 2008 in the coastal city of Piran, Slovenia, is recognized as one of the leading forces for promoting academic excellence, intercultural dialogue and innovation at the intersection of Europe, Africa and the Middle East. With the endorsement of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the European Commission, EMUNI was inaugurated in the presence of international dignitaries and has quickly become a flagship initiative of the UfM. Its mission is to advance knowledge, foster innovation and promote sustainable development by building together with its partners a Euro-Mediterranean area of higher education and research.

EMUNI's network embraces 179 higher education and research organizations from over 30 Euro-Mediterranean States, providing a platform for joint degrees, collaborative research, academic mobility and international visibility. In addition, EMUNI has built a network of researchers and academics who sympathize with EMUNI and are part of the EMUNI academic community. This community serves as a space for sharing ideas, working together on innovative teaching methods, research projects, co-publishing opportunities, funding applications, and more. Participation in this group offers an invaluable opportunity to connect with professionals who share the same interests. The university's academic portfolio is diverse and future-oriented. It includes master's programs and in the new academic year also doctoral programs. In addition to offering degree programs, EMUNI aims to offer lifelong learning programs that can equip graduates with the skills and perspectives needed for leadership in a global context, which uses the solutions proposed by digital technology pero does not forget the central role of the individual and humanism supported by common values.

Collaboration and innovation are at the heart of EMUNI's mission. The university's knowledge and innovation centers opened in Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt and Lebanon strengthen ties between academia and industry and support knowledge transfer between the two sides of the Mediterranean. In this sense, the Euro-Mediterranean Business Club established by EMUNI together with local companies further strengthens regional cooperation by connecting business and political leaders to unlock new cross-border opportunities.

EMUNI actively promotes scientific cooperation and intercultural dialogue through close partnerships with organizations such as the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and ongoing participation in UfM initiatives. The university tackles critical regional issues-including human rights, migration, gender equality and sustainable development-ensuring that its impact goes far beyond academia.

As the publisher of scholarly monographs, books and the peer-reviewed, open-access International Journal of Euro-Mediterranean Studies (IJEMS), EMUNI promotes scientific capital and cross-cultural understanding among academics, policymakers and practitioners. Through its publications, events and scholarly activities, EMUNI continues to shape the realities and ideas that influence the Euro-Mediterranean region.

With continued investment in innovative new programs, knowledge centers and international partnerships, EMUNI remains committed to its role as a benchmark institution for academic excellence and cross-cultural engagement. More than a university, EMUNI is a catalyst for collaboration and progress, dedicated to shaping a sustainable and peaceful future for the Mediterranean and beyond.

## Message from the President

In 2024, we have achieved a lot, confirming that we are an excellent team that will lead EMUNI to the realization of ambitiously set goals. Thank you to the President and members of the Management Board for their support and strategic considerations, thank you to the members of the General Assembly, members of our network for their support and commitment to the EMUNI mission.

The progress in terms of the offer of new master's, doctoral and professional study programs is enormous. I would especially like to highlight the joint and double study programs and common research projects with universities from the network. Thanks to Vice President Robert Biloslavo for the excellent work done and good prospects for this year. We have invested a lot in the promotion of our study offer; now it is the students' turn.

The five EKICS (EMUNI Knowledge & Innovation Centres) that have been launched in the five countries of the Southern Mediterranean are already operational and we believe that they will contribute a lot to the interconnection of our activities with the universities of the Southern Mediterranean. The aim of these centres is not only student exchange, but also joint research and teaching work and, above all, science diplomacy in relations with the EU.

More decisive steps need to be taken in this area. In the field of inter-university cooperation, we are aware of a number of challenges, such as the question: why do Erasmus or Horizon students/professors still need to obtain a visa?

We will do everything in our power to accelerate further changes that can lead to better and closer cooperation between partners on both shores of the Mediterranean.

There have been particularly significant changes in the field of research activities, and all praise goes to Dr. Maja Pucelj for the immense energy and freshness that she brings to the rapid increase in EMUNI's research activities.

We have successfully started to organize, strengthen and shape the EMUNI network in a way that is interesting for our full and associate members. Here, decisive changes are still waiting for us, and the interest in joining the EMUNI network is one of the indicators that changes for the better are taking place.

EMUNI is supported by the Slovenian government, and special thanks go to the Ministry responsible for higher education, which has recognized in us an opportunity for the international affirmation of higher education. And of course, thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for supporting EMUNI in all international connections. We are pleased that we have been able to justify such important trust.

We still have a lot of work to do, we know what we want and we can do it. Thank you EMUNI team for a great performance in 2024.

**Prof. dr. Rado Bohinc**  
President EMUNI



## Message from the EMUNI Management Board Chair

The academic year 2024–2025 has been a transformative period for EMUNI, marked by dynamic academic developments and a renewed sense of responsibility in the face of regional and global challenges. As a Euro-Mediterranean institution rooted in cooperation and solidarity, EMUNI has reaffirmed its mission through concrete initiatives aimed at strengthening academic excellence, fostering innovation, and promoting inclusive dialogue.

This year, like all academic and research institutions, EMUNI could not remain neutral in the face of the devastating conflicts unfolding in the Middle East. We expressed strong institutional solidarity and undertook tangible actions to support suffering communities, particularly in Palestine and Lebanon. These efforts were not only a moral imperative but also a reaffirmation of EMUNI's values of peace, human dignity, and shared responsibility across borders.

Our academic mission advanced significantly this year. We expanded and diversified our Master's programmes and Specialized Courses to more effectively address urgent regional priorities such as digital transformation, human rights, and intercultural communication. These programmes are grounded in interdisciplinary approaches and have been enhanced through strengthened quality assurance systems and strategic academic partnerships. Our ambition remains to educate a new generation of Mediterranean leaders equipped to navigate complexity with knowledge, ethics, and innovation.

EMUNI also reinforced its role as a catalyst for innovation by supporting local ecosystems in five Mediterranean countries, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, and Lebanon, through pilot initiatives titled EKIC – EMUNI Knowledge and Innovation Centre that fostered university-business linkages and youth-led entrepreneurship. These efforts also paved the way for students from South Mediterranean countries to engage more actively with NI.

At the institutional level, the Management Board meets regularly, both in person and remotely, to ensure close monitoring and support of EMUNI's action plan. These engagements helped maintain coherence, adaptability, and strong governance throughout the year. We are particularly proud of the excellent relationship established among all EMUNI bodies, and I would like to express special appreciation to President Rado Bohinc, with whom we have worked in a spirit of mutual trust and shared ambition.

This year was notably enriched by the exceptional visit of the Presidents of the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Portugal. Their insightful dialogue with EMUNI students highlighted the University's symbolic and operational role in promoting Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. It was a truly memorable occasion that reaffirmed the transformative power of education to unite, elevate, and inspire across borders.

Looking ahead, a key strategic priority for EMUNI is to strengthen its capacity to attract more students, secure greater scholarship opportunities, and enhance funding, particularly through increased support from our host country, Slovenia, and from European programmes. These resources are essential for EMUNI to consolidate its role as a regional hub for academic excellence, research innovation, and intercultural engagement.

I am confident that EMUNI is well-positioned to amplify its impact and strengthen its relevance across the Mediterranean. I extend my deep appreciation to the members of the Management Board, the dedicated EMUNI staff, and our valued partners for their commitment and contributions to a productive and meaningful year.

Together, we continue shaping a more united, innovative, and resilient Mediterranean.

**Prof. Dr. Mouin Hamzé**

President of the Management Board



# EMUNI Vision, Mission and Strategic Goals

## Vision

By means of the powerful tools of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), headquartered in Slovenia, aspires to contribute to sustainable development, peace and prosperity of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

## Mission

Established as an of international association of universities, EMUNI acts as a powerful force to bridge the shores of the Mediterranean. As such, EMUNI seeks to become:

- A reference university conducting quality study programmes and state-of-the-art research in fields of high relevance, serving the Euro-Mediterranean interests and challenges;
- A Committed and dynamic network of diverse Euro-Med HE and research institutions;
- An Inclusive platform for inter-cultural dialogue and science diplomacy in the Euro-Med region.

## Strategic Goals

The EMUNI Strategy for 2024–2029 focuses on six key priorities, including the development of quality educational programmes, based upon basic and applied research in related fields, strengthening the EMUNI network, fundraising, communication and promotion, enhancing project acquisition capacity, and promoting EMUNI's role as a platform for intercultural dialogue and science diplomacy.

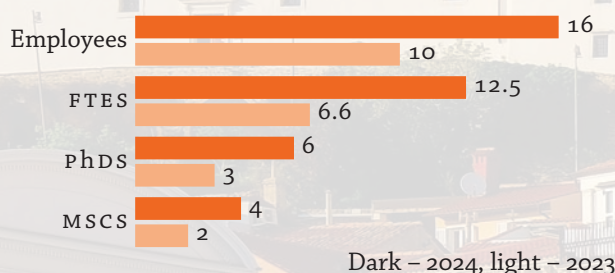
- 1 **Development of Quality Educational Programmes and Activities.** EMUNI aims to expand its offerings with new Master's, PhD, and professional training programmes, including an interactive online learning platform and partnerships for dual and joint degrees.
- 2 **Strengthening the EMUNI Network with Full Members.** The network will support collaborative research and educational projects, create scientific and innovation communities, and build institutional cooperation, especially with Southern Mediterranean countries.
- 3 **Fundraising.** The goal is to increase EMUNI's annual budget, establish a scholarship fund for students from the Southern Mediterranean, and attract a higher number of students and paying members.
- 4 **Communication and Promotion.** EMUNI will develop and implement a communication and marketing strategy to enhance its visibility in both social and traditional media, aiming to increase student demand and foster collaboration with other stakeholders.
- 5 **Enhancing Research Project Acquisition Capacity.** This involves improving staff skills in project proposal writing and attending partnership-building events regularly.
- 6 **Promoting Intercultural Dialogue and Science Diplomacy.** EMUNI plans to organise annual conferences and other events to foster dialogue and cooperation in science and technological innovation between the EU and Southern Mediterranean countries.

## Employees

Departments – financed by	FTE
University Leadership – MHESI (MVZI)	2.0
Secretariat – MHESI (MVZI)	3.0
Department for Research, Development, Projects and Innovation – R&D funds	3.2
Department for Higher Education – MHESI (MVZI)/Tuition fees	3.6
Department for the EMUNI Network – MHESI (MVZI)/Network fees	0.7

31 December 2024

### Employees, FTES and qualifications



## EMUNI Management

### EMUNI President

Prof. Dr. Rado Bohinc was appointed President during the 64<sup>th</sup> Management Board session in January 2024. His term begins on April 2, 2024, and runs until April 1, 2029.

### EMUNI Management Board

- Prof. Dr. Mouin Hamze, Lebanon, Chairperson
- Prof. Dr. Maria Cristina Pedicchio, Italy, Co-Chairperson
- Prof. Dr. Rado Pišot, Slovenia
- Ambassador Hatem Atallah, Tunisia
- Prof. Dr. Hassan Nadir Kheirallah, Egypt
- Prof. Dr. Maria Dolores Banon Castellon, Spain

## Income and Expenditure Account

Income/expenditure	EUR
Operating income	1,184,267.05
Operating expenditure	1,040,476.82
Operating revenue surplus	143,790.23

Structure of the sources	EUR
Budget of the RS	733,333.33
R/D/I projects	365,287.01
Membership fees	37,500.00
Tuition, registration fees	24,052.63

Budget of the RS	62.47 %
R/D/I projects	31.12 %
Membership fees	3.19 %
Tuition, reg. fees	2.05 %

Personnel costs/operat. expendit.	EUR
Operating income	553,539.45
Operating expenditure	347.716,02

Personnel costs	53.2 %
Operat. expendit.	46.8 %

- Her Royal Highness Princess Rym Ali, Jordan, Member of the International Public Figures of Repute
- Prof. Dr. Augusto Santos Silva, Portugal
- Prof. Dr. Mostapha Bousmina, Morocco, President of Euro-Med University of Fes
- Ms. Petra Kežman, Representative of the Union for the Mediterranean
- Mr. Jernej Širok, Slovenia, Representative of Slovenian Government
- Ms. Lina Kaldana, Slovenia, Representative of EMUNI Employees
- Mr. Ioannis Panagiotopoulos, Greece, Representative of EMUNI Students (until 19 November 2024)
- Mr. Ibraheem Saleh, Palestine (from 19 December 2024)



## Study Programmes

### Current Study Programmes

#### Masters

- Intercultural Business Communication (IBC)
- Kinesiology of Human Performance (KHP)

### Programmes in Accreditation Process to Be Started in the Study Year 2025/2026

#### Masters

- Digitalization and Human Rights

#### PhDs

- Kinesiology for Quality of Life

### Certified Professional Programmes

- Luxury and Fashion Management
- MBA
- AI for Business
- Cyber Security
- Sport Management

### Study Programmes to Be Developed in Collaboration with Universities from the Network

- Master in Social and Solidarity Economy – University of Sousse, Tunisia
- Management of Sustainable Development – Heliópolis University, Egypt
- Mediterranean Politics and Multilateral Relations – Roma Tre University, Italy

### Study Programmes, to Be Accredited by 2026 and Offered to Students in 2026/2027

#### Masters

- Sustainable Port Management
- Sustainable Interior and Open Space Design
- Comparative Business Law
- Sport Management
- Mediterranean Geopolitics and Geoeconomics

#### PhDs

- Intercultural and Resilience Studies
- Forms and Traditions of Knowledge across the Mediterranean
- Comparative Corporate Governance

## The Euro-Mediterranean Innovation Camp 2024

EMUNI successfully concluded the second season of the Euro-Mediterranean Innovation Camp (EMIC) on June 7, 2024. Supported by Slovenia's Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, this event provided a vital platform for young innovators aged 18 to 35 from the Mediterranean region to present their innovative solutions in Health, Renewable Energy, and Environment and Climate Change. The competition received 122 applications, resulting in 12 shortlisted candidates and six finalists who participated in a bootcamp. The Grand Finale, held via Zoom, attracted over 220 participants.

## Summer Schools

- Healthy and Active Lifestyle (HALS) – EMUNI University and ZRS Koper, Slovenia and Heliópolis University, Egypt
- Transformative Pathways to Sustainability in the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean: Learning across Emerging Tools and Technologies – EMUNI University, Slovenia and Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale (OGS) Trieste, Italy

**EMUNI is the best choice** for those who want a ticket to the global marketplace with the ambition to influence progressive change in the world.

**EMUNI trains top professionals** who understand the challenges of the modern world and easily create the cross-cultural connections they need for any business or organisation.

**EMUNI's graduates** gain the skills and competences to run a business better and find a job faster.

## Overview of Project Proposals and Trends

2023 | 1 proposal  
2024 | 6 proposals  
2025 | 60 proposals\*

\* Until 15 May 2025.

The number of project proposals has increased significantly over the years, this reflects growing research engagement and funding opportunities.

### Key Research Topics and Focus Areas

Project proposals cover diverse fields:

- Higher Education & Research – Erasmus+ projects on digital education and academic leadership; among them 9 Capacity Building in HE projects submitted in 2025 (e. g. Critical Thinking, Academic HR Management).
- Blue Economy & Sustainability – Interreg and CEI-funded projects on water conservation and marine ecosystems.
- Technology & Digitalization – AI-driven research, digital workplace transformation, and open resources.
- Social Innovation – Community development and governance-focused projects (e.g. Public Law, and Corporate Governance).
- Sports & Career Development – Erasmus+ Sport initiatives for athlete career growth (e.g. Dual Career Programs).

Research focus aligns with sustainability, education, and innovation.

## Currently Active EU Projects

**MORHEL** – The Moroccan Higher Education Leadership 2023–2025

**TrueBlue** – CEI support to Training and Research to Unlock and Enhance the potential of sustainable BLUE Economy for regional cooperation and EU integration, 2024–2025

**Skillbridge** – Skills Validation for Borderless Labor, Integration into European Markets 2024–2027

**EUNICoast**, European University Alliance, 2024–2028

**CreaTech** – Innovation and Entrepreneurship Capacity Building at HEIs

Recently finished projects (in 2025):

**CHES** – Change Hubs for Ecosystemic Social Solutions 2023–2025

**COE-SUBE** – Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Blue Economy 2022–2025

### EMUNI Network

**Connecting institutions.** The Network involves members from different countries, especially from the Mediterranean region, and promotes the exchange of experiences and cooperation in academic and research projects.

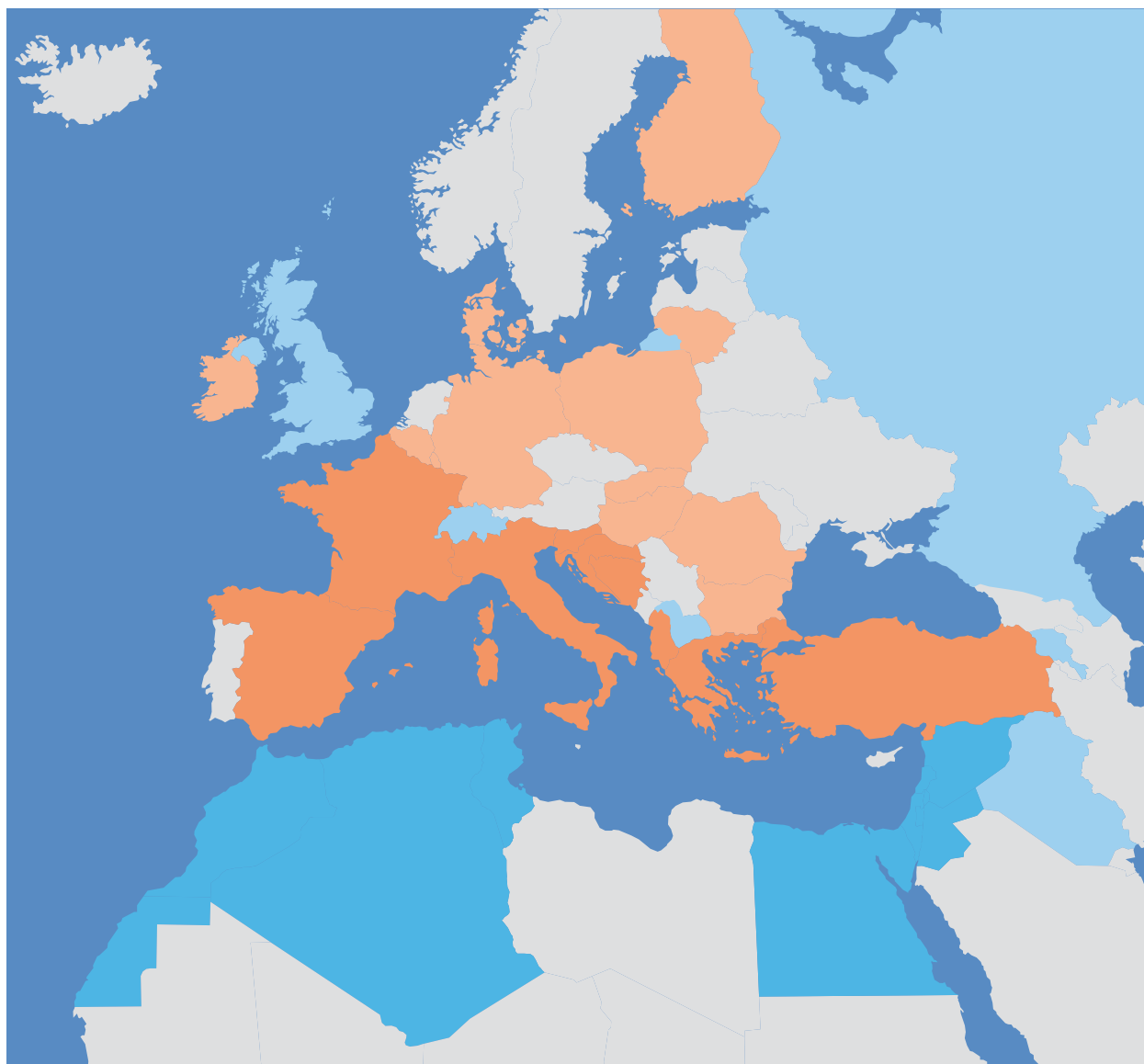
**Promoting Mobility.** The Emuni Network facilitates the mobility of students, teachers and researchers between the different institutions in the Network, enriching the educational experience.

**Promoting Intercultural Dialogue.** The Network enables students and academic staff to connect with different cultures, contributing to a broader understanding and cooperation between people.

**Supporting Development Strategies and Research Projects.** Network members collaborate on joint research projects, training programmes and the development of innovative solutions in the field of higher education and entrepreneurship.



## EMUNI's Network: Regional Distribution of Partners



### **South Mediterranean (40 partners)**

- Algeria
- Egypt
- Israel
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Palestine
- Syria
- Tunisia

### **North Mediterranean (87 partners)**

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- France
- Greece
- Italy
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Turkey

### **Other Members of the EU (35 partners)**

- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Denmark
- Finland
- Germany
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Poland
- Romania
- Slovakia

### **Other Countries (17 partners)**

- Armenia
- Iraq
- Kosovo
- North Macedonia
- Switzerland
- Russia
- UK
- USA



## EMUNI Annual Conference 2024

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual EMUNI Conference, held on 10–11 October 2024 in Piran, Slovenia, focused on ancient hydrologic systems and water management in the Mediterranean.

Co-organized by RIPAM, OGS, and the Union for the Mediterranean, the event featured key-note speakers and discussions on water scarcity, diplomacy, and sustainability. A total of 56 institutions were represented from 12 countries and three continents around the Mediterranean Sea, including 35 universities (17 from the South shore and 18 from the North shore), plus 11 other public (two from the South shore) and 10 private entities (two from the South shore), with 150 researchers and professionals.





## In 2024, EMUNI Established

- **Five new EMUNI EKICS** – Tlemcen University (TLU), Heliopolis University (HU), Sousse University (SU), Hassan 1 University (H1U), Lebanese International University (LIU) (coordinators meet on 10 April 2025)
- **EMUNI Academic Community** – Higher education teachers and researchers, already involved in EMUNI programs (18) or projects (nine), or who are willing to collaborate in the future (met 26 February 2025).
- **EMUNI Scholarship Fund** – An internal EMUNI account, aimed to raise funds for students' scholarship (the founding session of the Scholarship Administrative Body was held on 19 December 2024)

## In 2024, EMUNI Initiated Establishment of

- **Euro-Mediterranean Students' Empowerment Fund (EMSEF)** – An international (MED 9) financial mechanism to support students exchange over the Mediterranean (ministers met on 17 April 2025)
- **Euro-Mediterranean Business Club** – An association of business operating on both sides of Mediterranean coast, interested in EMUNI students, to financially support them (founders met on 10 April 2025 at EMUNI)
- **EMUNI Ambassadors** – Ambassadors represent the values and mission of the EMUNI network at international level, helping to extend its reach (rules accepted by the Management Board in December 2024)







University  
EMUNI

Labelled by



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

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