



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



Anna Lindh
Foundation
EUROMED

Mediterranean Capitals of Culture & Dialogue

A yearlong celebration of Euro-Mediterranean identity and cooperation



Background

The Euro-Mediterranean region boasts a rich and diverse heritage, shaped by centuries of cultural exchange. A melting pot of different languages and traditions, the region shares a heritage and a deep sense of identity and belonging. Today, this legacy continues to inspire our shared values and aspirations, reminding us of the importance of building bridges and fostering understanding between cultures.

In that spirit, the 43 Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean launched the “Mediterranean Capitals of Culture & Dialogue” during their 7th Regional Forum in November 2022.

Based on the call of **Ministers of Culture of the Euro-Mediterranean region** on 17 June 2022 in Naples, as well as the recommendation of more than 200 young representatives from the civil society of over 20 countries at the **Forum des Mondes Méditerranéens** on February 2022 in Marseille, this initiative was shaped to further promote the diversity and shared identity and contribute to a better mutual understanding of its peoples.

This initiative was developed in partnership with young civil society representatives and UfM member states.

How is the initiative shaped?

2 cities
1 North
1 South



Highlighting the cities’ rich Euro-Mediterranean cultural identities

Involving their populations in all their diversity

1 year



Culminating on the Day of the Mediterranean (28 November)

What does it aim for?

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN IDENTITY: Combining local objectives with regional visions to promote intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

TERRITORIAL COOPERATION: Promoting innovative partnerships at the local level to enhance regional integration between cities and to encourage interactions between territories with limited integration.

BOTTOM-UP APPROACH: Enhancing collaboration between local government and civil society to strengthen inclusion and participation in the creation and implementation of the programme.



Tirana, Albania

At the heart of the Balkans and a crossroad of civilisations, Tirana stands as a living testament to the coexistence of cultures, religions, and historical influences across the Mediterranean. The city's commitment to the richness of its heritage while fostering meaningful collaboration with its partner city, Alexandria, makes Tirana the perfect first Mediterranean Capital of Culture and Dialogue.

Tirana's MediTIRANEan Bridges programme consists of 4 pillars: cultural exploration, enhancing artistic creativity, digitalising cultural heritage and sustainable cultural tourism. All four embrace its rich and diverse heritage and contemporary art expressions, foster intercultural dialogue in the region, and integrate eco-friendly practices into all events.

Alexandria, Egypt

Alexandria, known as the Pearl of the Mediterranean, has a long history of supporting intellectual and cultural creativity. The city strives to deepen intercultural dialogue, promote the values of tolerance and respect, and create opportunities for cultural exchanges across the Mediterranean Basin, making it an ideal Capital of Culture and Dialogue in the region.

Alexandria's programme includes art festivals and cultural fairs to highlight the city's Mediterranean heritage. Additionally, conferences, roundtables and seminars on Mediterranean youth, culture, industry, and digitalisation will aim to enhance regional dialogue, and visits to different parts of the city will be key to showcase its diversity, heritage, and ties to the Mediterranean.



Preparing for 2026

The next Mediterranean Capitals of Culture and Dialogue, for 2026, have just been endorsed by the UfM Member States.

Matera, Italy

Matera's "Terre Immerse" programme will explore the Mediterranean identity of cities through their hinterlands, examining how culture, society, and creativity are shaped by proximity to the sea. It will aim to foster connections and highlight commonalities between diverse inland regions, from continental Europe to areas near Mediterranean coasts.

Tetouan, Morocco

The programme will highlight Tétouan's deep Mediterranean ties under the motto "Dialogues of the Two Shores." Positioned at the Strait of Gibraltar, Tétouan has long been a crossroads of African and European civilizations, fostering religious harmony, cultural diversity, and intercultural dialogue. Its artistic heritage, recognized by UNESCO, enriches its vibrant society.

**Congratulations
to them!**

Want to be the next city
at the heart of Euro-
Mediterranean cooperation
and dialogue?

Get more information about
the initiative:

medculturecapital.com



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



Anna Lindh
Foundation
EUROMED



ufmsecretariat.org



Palau de Pedralbes | Pere Duran Farell, 11
Barcelona, Spain - 08034
Phone: 00 34 93 521 4100 | Fax: 00 34 93 521 4102