The Mediterranean Youth Council is a transnational cooperation aiming at being the youth representative body in both shores of the sea. The MYC is made up of young and dynamic people from 18 to 30 years old from all over the Mediterranean region, from Kosovo to Cyprus, Lebanon, Palestine, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Spain, Italy and France. Through debates, outreach and communication, the aim of the MYC is to foster democratic participation for young people in the Mediterranean through a dialogue with local, regional and national authorities. The Mediterranean Youth Council is coordinated by the French association Les Têtes de l’Art, and co-managed the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission (CPMR-IMC), by the Provence Alpes Côtes d’Azur region, the Lazio region, and the Foundation Assembly of Citizens of the Mediterranean (FACM), with the support of EuroMed France and the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA).
Objectives of the MYC

1. A consulting body on Mediterranean challenges

The MYC is divided in working groups to conduct research and debates on specific topics:

- Environment & Climate Change
- Digitalization
- Economy, Education & Entrepreneurship
- Gender and Discriminations
- Society & Interculturality

2. Strengthening Mediterranean citizenship & culture

The MYC is strengthening the Mediterranean concept by creating and participating at events, conferences and organizing pilot actions to express the sense of belonging to a same area. Partnerships are key to build and preserve a common heritage.

3. Lobbying & Outreach for youth interests

Transnational cooperation can decentralize the decision-making process. In this perspective, the Mediterranean Youth Council expresses the voice of the young people in the Mediterranean and campaigns on different challenges to be taken in consideration.

Values

- **Bottom-up approach**: The goal is to foster the youth participation at the regional level. This approach is empowering the people by progressing upward the national and European authorities from the local and regional level.

- **To connect action and advocacy**: The goal of the MYC is to be both an entity of proactive action and an advocacy tool to impact on key decision-makers and implement concrete measures such as sustainability and social improvement.

- **Intermediary**: The Council is an intermediary between decision making bodies and the youth. In addition, the MYC aims at being a hub of the youth organizations already set up and to create synergies (gathering, connection place).

- **Multilateral debate & local impact**: The goal is to foster local youth voice to create a space of Intermediterranean dialogue to foster engagement through critical thinking and respect.

- **Multiculturalism**: The MYC is an assembly with different working languages, promoting an inclusive approach: English, French, Arabic.

- **Intergenerational ethics**: The MYC works in the belief of improving nowadays conditions as well as the one of the next generations. They align they work with the Sustainability Goals of the United Nations.
Key insights: Building the political framework of the MYC

- **14 & 15th December 2019**: The origins of a Youth Mediterranean network
  A group of young representatives from different Mediterranean Regions met in Santa Severa (Lazio, Italy) to support the creation of an Intermediterranean Youth Council. This initial meeting was the opportunity to define the objectives, values and organisational rules of the IMC Youth Council. This Council later evolved, thanks to a synergy with youth associations other IMC Regions, notably the Assemblée des Jeunes Citoyen·ne·s de la Méditerranée (AJCM), coordinated by the Association Les Têtes de l’Art.

- **7th of February 2022**: The official launch of the Mediterranean Youth Council
  In the framework of the European Year of the Youth, the MYC born from the synergy between the IMC Youth Council and the AJCM has been officially launched on February 7th as part of the Forum for the Mediterranean Worlds that took place in Marseille.

- **28th of March 2022**: The Action Plan
  The Mediterranean Youth Council gathered to reflect on their Action Plan strategy. This plenary session was the opportunity to discuss on the political framework of the Council and to define its areas of action.

- **May 2022**: Concept notes
  Concept notes have been released by the working groups on their research outcomes and perspectives. They focused on key issues, their context, the targeted goals to tackle them and their respective recommendations with innovative options if possible. These papers shape the Political Declaration of the Mediterranean Youth Council.

- **9 & 10th of June 2022**: Sevilla, the Political Declaration of the MYC
  The Mediterranean Youth Council (MYC) gathered in the framework of the General Assembly of the Intermediterranean Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions held in Sevilla on the 9th & 10th of June. This event was a strategic milestone to present the MYC’s members to regional authorities across the Mediterranean and to allow the MYC to advocate on youth issues in the Med. This event was also relevant to the policy-making process and legitimacy of the MYC since they presented their first Political Declaration to the General Assembly and debated it with the regions. This meeting between the Regions and the Med youth will hopefully lead to a comprehensive cooperation in the future with more transnational events.

  The Political Declaration is made of observations and recommendations regarding key thematic issues concerning digitalization, environment, education, gender and interculturality. Young people from the Mediterranean have had the opportunity to speak about possible improvements on nowadays issues with politicians from regional authorities.

Next steps

- **7-9 october 2022**: Plenary meeting in Santa Severa, Italy
- **Fall 2022 (date tbc.)**: Méditerranée du Futur in Marseille, France
- **November (date tbc.)**: Day of the Mediterranean, synergies with various Mediterranean actions
- **February 2023**: CPMR Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau
Past events & cooperation

• **23, 24 & 25th of February 2022**: Participation to the Balkan Youth Environment Assembly

A MYC’s member from Kosovo participated in this transnational event to help shaping the General Declaration of the Balkan Youth Environment Assembly with key recommendations. The Balkan Youth Environment Assembly (BYEA) is a civil-society initiative organized by and for young people in the Balkans, to learn and dialogue about the environmental issues that matter most to them. The regional youth assembly is supported by the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) Major Group for Children and Youth (UNEP MGCY) and was organized in the lead-up to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2). This partnership between the BYEA and the MYC has the ambition to go further this session dedicated to the *Environmental Governance & Pollution Management* topic.

• **Debates with BUSINESSMED**

The Mediterranean Youth Council had the opportunity to shed light on the situation of undergratuate or fresh graduate young people in the market place during a debate with BUSINESSMED (Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises). Besides, in the framework of environmental pressure, the priority should also be to transfer skills to the youth and to ensure young people have a better access to the marketplace.

• **25th of March 2022**: Green economy workshop

The working groups on “Environment” and on “Entrepreneurship” of the MYC participated to an exchange of best practices with the “Citoyens de la Terre” association from Marseille and students from the IAE (business management institute) of Toulon. They presented green economy projects, inspiring initiatives and agreed on shared issues such as the lack of funding for young entrepreneurs.

• **7th of May 2022**: Participation to the event “L@s corresponsales juveniles cuentan”, Almeria

The Mediterranean Youth Council was presented in Andalucia.

• **11th of May 2022**: Podcasts on Youth issues

The president of the MYC represented the Council in a series of podcasts that Eurodesk is recording in the context of the European Year of the Youth.