



Towards a renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood

Launching a new Agenda for the Mediterranean

25 years after the Barcelona Declaration, a strengthened Euro-Mediterranean partnership remains a strategic imperative for the European Union (EU). The **New Agenda for the Mediterranean** proposes to relaunch the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and unleash the region's untapped potential.

Many political, socio-economic and security challenges in the Southern Neighbourhood remain to be addressed while some have even been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Unresolved conflicts continue to weigh heavily on the economies and societies of the region. The EU and its Member States are working with Southern Mediterranean partner countries to address those challenges and adapt their cooperation to today's realities, help people of the region enjoy their rights fully and meet their aspirations for the future.

The new Agenda will help us seize opportunities together, making the most out of the green and digital transition, and creating inclusive societies and economies for all, especially for women and the youth. Respect for human rights and the rule of law is an integral part of our partnership.

Key themes

-  Human development, good governance and the rule of law
-  Resilience, prosperity and the digital transition
-  Peace and security
-  Migration and mobility
-  Green transition: climate resilience, energy, and environment

Funding

The new Agenda will guide the European Union's (EU) bilateral, regional, and cross-regional cooperation under the EU's Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI).

For the period **2021-2027**, the European Commission proposes to mobilise **up to €7 billion** under the NDICI, including European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus guarantees and blending under the Neighbourhood Investment Platform, which would help mobilise **private and public investments of up to €30 billion** in the Southern Neighbourhood.

Economic and Investment Plan for the Southern Neighbours

The Economic and Investment Plan for the Southern Neighbours will include **flagship initiatives in priority sectors**, covering human development and good governance, economic development, energy, environment, climate change, migration and mobility, to strengthen resilience, build prosperity and seize the digital transition, as well as increase trade and investment to support competitiveness and inclusive growth.

Human development, good governance and the rule of law

- ✘ Strengthen preparedness and response capacities of healthcare systems
- ✘ Support a renewed commitment to human rights, the rule of law, democracy and good governance to strengthen governance systems, boost transparency and accountability, and build trust in institutions
- ✘ Empower young people and civil society, and foster gender equality
- ✘ Encourage research, innovation, culture and education through closer participation in EU programmes

Resilience, prosperity and the digital transition

- ✘ Build inclusive, resilient, sustainable and connected economies by restoring trust in the business climate, encouraging economic diversification and improving interconnectivity
- ✘ Support the leap to the digital transition, both for the public and the private sectors
- ✘ Support access to finance for Small and Medium Enterprises
- ✘ Take advantage of the benefits of women economic empowerment

Peace and security

- ✘ Reaffirm EU's role as an actor for peace, conflict resolution and prevention as part of a revitalised multilateral system with the UN at its heart
- ✘ Step-up security cooperation to better counter terrorism, cyber and hybrid threats as well as organised crime

Migration and mobility

- ✘ Enhance cooperation on migration on the basis of comprehensive, balanced, tailor made and mutually beneficial partnerships, in line with the new Pact on Migration and Asylum
- ✘ Address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement through conflict resolution and a targeted response to socio-economic challenges providing economic opportunities, especially for the youth
- ✘ Seize the benefits of legal migration and mobility in line with EU and Member States' competences

Green transition: climate resilience, energy, and environment

- ✘ Support countries in meeting their climate commitments
- ✘ Drive energy transition and ensure energy security
- ✘ Encourage resource efficiency and biodiversity
- ✘ Achieve transition to sustainable food systems

