



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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€73.7 million to boost EU regional cooperation in the Southern Mediterranean

The EU adopted a €73.7 million assistance package for 8 regional projects to foster socio-economic development in the Southern Neighbourhood countries. It reflects the priorities agreed upon with the partner countries until 2020. The projects have been developed in close cooperation with the relevant authorities and stakeholders.

These regional programmes complement EU bilateral cooperation by addressing common challenges across the region. These include migration, job creation and socio-economic inclusion, as well as continued integration of civil society in the political dialogue. Moreover, they encourage North-South and South-South cooperation and promote exchange of views and knowledge sharing.

- **Migration (€3 million)** will be addressed through an action which empowers displaced populations and their host communities by focusing on socio-economic development needs and the promotion of rights (e.g. livelihood support, mediation efforts). It complements the Regional Development and Protection Programme funded earlier by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.
- **Job creation and socio-economic inclusion (€19 million)** will be supported at policy level to enhance investment and innovation frameworks, and at institutional level to enhance capacities of key intermediaries such as investment promotion agencies and innovation support organisations (€10 million). The support to the regional transport action plan (€9 million) will improve transport regulations and standards in view of integrating economies and markets in the region, thus contributing to economic growth.
- **Integrating civil society in the political dialogue (€12.5 million)** will be facilitated by developing the capacity of key actors to engage with their authorities through the Civil Society Facility (€3 million) and by supporting the making of films and documentaries to overcome stereotypes and foster understanding between ethnicities and cultures (€4.5 million). Civil society groups in Israel and Palestine will be involved in joint activities to build trust and understanding (€5 million), thus promoting the conditions for a sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict.
- **Enhancing the regional dialogue (€4.21 million)** by supporting the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, a unique platform for regional dialogue bringing together 43 partners from the southern and northern shores of the Mediterranean.
- These specific actions will be complemented by the **Global Allocation (€35 million)**, an envelope which allows funding small-scale projects at short notice across 8 countries over a period of three years.

For more information

EU Regional cooperation Southern Neighbourhood: see [regional south webpage](#)

EU Neighbourhood Info Centre: <http://www.enpi-info.eu/>