



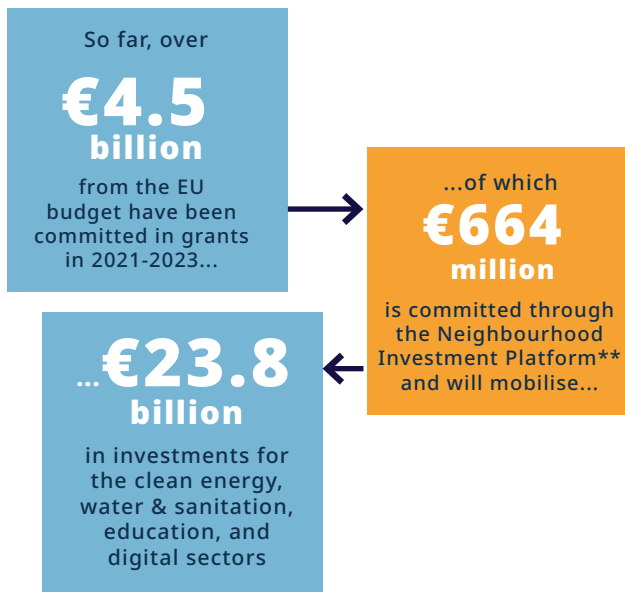
The Economic and Investment Plan for the Southern neighbours: **the Agenda for the Mediterranean in action.**

#EIP #GlobalGateway #TeamEurope

MARCH 2024



The new Agenda for the Mediterranean and its Economic and Investment Plan for the Southern Neighbourhood (EIP) were launched by the European Union in 2021 to strengthen the strategic partnership with its Southern Neighbourhood partners*, to spur recovery, strengthen resilience, and to help build prosperity in the region.



The EIP identifies 4 sectors of cooperation with 12 flagship initiatives:

- **Human development & good governance**
 - ◆ **Flagship 1** – Social sector, education, skills & health
 - ◆ **Flagship 2** – Human rights, rule of law, governance
- **Resilience, prosperity & digital transition**
 - ◆ **Flagship 3** – Resilient economies
 - ◆ **Flagship 4** – Sustainable economies
 - ◆ **Flagship 5** – Connected economies
 - ◆ **Flagship 6** – Inclusive economies
 - ◆ **Flagship 7** – Digital transformation, Research & Innovation
- **Migration & mobility**
 - ◆ **Flagship 8** – Migration
- **Green transition: climate resilience, energy & environment**
 - ◆ **Flagship 9** – Green growth & climate action
 - ◆ **Flagship 10** – Energy, security & transition
 - ◆ **Flagship 11** – Resource efficiency
 - ◆ **Flagship 12** – Sustainable food systems, agricultural & rural development

* Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia
 ** mechanism to mobilise funding for infrastructure projects in EU partner countries by pooling together grant resources from the EU budget and the EU Member States to leverage loans from European Financial Institutions and the countries in the European neighbourhood themselves.



The Economic and Investment Plan contributes to the EU's Global Gateway strategy in a Team Europe approach. Team Europe brings together the EU and EU Member States with their financial and development institutions.



Human development & good governance



The EU's Agenda for the Mediterranean emphasizes a human development approach. It focuses on improving the quality of life, promoting good governance and the rule of law, upholding rights and freedoms, providing equal opportunities and supporting the expansion of health care, education, and social security to all. In addition, EU cooperation efforts address the challenges of poverty and mitigate the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some selected projects here below.

Flagship 1

Social sector, education, skills & health

Supporting inclusive, equitable and quality education for vulnerable children and youth in hosting communities in Jordan

The international community committed at the Brussels Conferences on the future of Syria and the region and in line with Jordan's policies to provide education to all children, regardless of their registration status and nationality. To this end, the EU supports completion of a full cycle of quality education to children and youth in refugees and hosting communities. It contributes as well to the provision of technical and vocational education, training and higher education opportunities.



Securing access to quality primary health services in Lebanon

With the highest number of refugees per capita in the world, Lebanon is facing an increased demand for access to affordable, quality and subsidised health services. To help the Lebanese government achieve its 2023 vision for universal health coverage, the EU programme aims to improve continued access to equitable, affordable and quality primary health care, including mental health and psychological support, and to strengthen access to medical products, including vaccinations and medicines.



Support programme for higher education, research and innovation and mobility in Morocco

This EU programme builds on Morocco's ongoing reform for higher education, scientific research and innovation to meet the challenges of economic and social change and the country's structural competitiveness in the global market. It promotes access to quality education and opportunities for students, graduates, researchers and teachers to improve the employability of higher education graduates through training, enabling Moroccan Universities to respond to the needs of the economic sectors and companies.



Flagship 2

Human rights, rule of law, governance

Building integrity and national accountability in Lebanon

In a context of deep economic, financial and social crisis, and the weakening of public institutions and services, restoring people's trust in the Lebanese state by improving governance and accountability is crucial. The programme aims to support civil society organisations' capacity to monitor and advocate for public policies and reforms. It also encourages the activities of women and youth organisations in the promotion of transparency and the fight against corruption. It is part of the "Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework" (3RF) financed by the EU, UN and World Bank and designed as a comprehensive response to the Port of Beirut explosion.



Flagship 3

Resilient Economies

This budget-support assistance for Morocco is built upon the 'Integrated Programme for the reconstruction and comprehensive upgrade of the disaster areas (2024-2028)', which was drawn up by the Moroccan authorities following the earthquake that struck on 8 September 2023. The programme will aim to provide support for individuals affected by the earthquake, help to relaunch public services (health and education in particular) and help to revive and boost economic activity and territorial cohesion in the areas affected by the earthquake. Furthermore, the European Investment Bank has pledged to lend EUR 1 billion over 5 years (an amount guaranteed by the EU) in order to assist Morocco in its post-earthquake reconstruction programme.



Resilience, prosperity and the digital transition



The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the existing structural economic imbalances in the Southern Neighbourhood region. Strengthening socio-economic resilience and promoting inclusive and connected economies are key cooperation priorities for the EU with the region to support sustainable growth, job creation and development.

Some selected projects here below.

Flagship 4 & 5

Sustainable & Connected Economies

EU support to green economy in Jordan

The EU programme builds on Jordan's National Green Growth Strategy and aims to contribute to the development of a green, environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive post COVID-19 economy. Through budget support and complementary grants, the programme will support sustainable and efficient production and consumption patterns in the industrial sector, strengthen coordination within the energy-water-agriculture nexus and contribute to sustainable public and private transport. The action will enhance circular economy and improve biodiversity and nature conservation, notably through the construction of Marine Park Research Center and the expansion of the national monitoring information system for waste.



Flagship 6

Inclusive economies

Support Programme for Social Protection (Karama) and Support Programme for Financial Inclusion in Morocco

The KARAMA programme supports specific actions to ensure a fair access for the Moroccan population to universal health coverage, family allocations, unemployment insurance and pensions. At the same time, the programme reinforces social assistance and rights of vulnerable persons, including migrants. In parallel, the Support Programme for Financial Inclusion promotes a more resilient economy and a more inclusive private sector growth by increasing access to finance.



Flagship 7

Digital transformation, Research and Innovation

Medusa submarine optical fibre cable

The MEDUSA project will provide fast and secure connectivity between the EU and Northern and Western Africa. It consists in the construction and deployment of the MEDUSA submarine cable system in the western Mediterranean interconnecting five European countries (Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and Greece) with five North African countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt) and Türkiye. It will also allow the connection to West Africa through the extension of the MEDUSA submarine cable system. **The EU will finance the project through a mix of loan and grant managed by the European Investment Bank. The total investment in the project is €342 million.**



Migration and mobility



Geopolitical instability, demographic and climate changes, combined with increased human flows across most migration routes, have kept the issue of migration at the top of the EU's political agenda. To deliver a European response to the ongoing challenges, the EU is enhancing its cooperation on migration with partners on the basis of comprehensive, balanced, tailor made and mutually beneficial partnerships, in line with the Pact on Migration and Asylum.

In this context, the EU is seeking to address the high number of casualties in the Mediterranean by supporting effective border management and reinforcing the search and rescue capacities of partner countries. Moreover, the EU focuses on the protection of the most vulnerable migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees and the voluntary return and sustainable reintegration of stranded migrants in North of Africa, while in parallel supports the overall migration management systems of its neighbours, a targeted response to the socio-economic challenges they are facing, and legal pathways for migration.

Some selected projects here below.

Flagship 8

Migration

To respond to Egypt's request for support in border management and search and rescue capacity, the EU has tabled an assistance of close to €110 million since 2022. It focuses on border management at sea and includes the delivery of 20 metre search and rescue boats, as well as other border surveillance equipment, all of which being of a civilian nature.



The EU allocated €150 million in 2023 to the Kingdom of Morocco, in the form of a Budget Support four-year programme, with as main objective to strengthen the EU-Morocco cooperation and the dialogue on migration, while contributing to the National Strategy on Immigration and Asylum's objectives.

The EU supports voluntary returns and sustainable reintegration in North of Africa since 2021 through a €81 million regional programme. It aims to support vulnerable migrants stranded in North of Africa to safely and voluntarily return in their countries of origin, as well as sustainable reintegration of North African returnees in North Africa, by providing them with tailored assistance covering their specific needs throughout the process based on an individual assessment. Therefore, specific procedures with proper safeguards are in place, such as for unaccompanied or separated migrant children, and migrants with health needs.



Green transition: climate resilience, energy, and environment

The Mediterranean basin is one of the regions of the world most exposed to the effects of climate change, warming up 20% faster than any other, experiencing droughts and a larger exposure to devastating forest fires. Water scarcity is already a major challenge affecting 180 million persons living with less than 1000 m³ per capita per year. Crop yield reductions are foreseen in the next decades, and fish landings are decreasing due to overfishing. The transition to a greener economy is one of the priorities of the European Union. In the Southern Mediterranean, the actions of the EU aim at supporting the countries in the region to meet their climate commitments, to transition to greener sources of energy (such as green hydrogen and solar), while maintaining elevated levels of energy security and to tackle fragility of fundamental resources, such as water and agriculture.

Some selected projects here below.

Flagship 9

Green growth and climate action

Green growth and climate action in Tunisia

Since 2021, the EU supports environmental action and helps the implementation of the Tunisian Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement. It also helps raising eco-citizenship, strengthening the capacities of the municipalities to integrate environmental issues in their local development plans, and financing green innovation projects, through mobilisation of private investments.



Flagship 10

Energy, security and transition

Programme for Energy Efficiency in Buildings for the Mediterranean region (PEEB MED)

From 2023 to 2032, EU Southern Neighbourhood countries will receive support through the PEEB MED in their transition to low-carbon, energy-efficient and climate-resilient building and construction through technical assistance and concessional loans. This action, implemented by the Agence Française du Développement with EU funds, aims to address the technical barriers and the costs to the energy efficient construction or renovation of buildings. Activities include support to policy implementation, trainings and knowledge sharing as well as technical assistance and loans for large-scale building projects (for instance social housing, schools, and health facilities) in compliance with high energy and environmental performance standards. **The total expected investment mobilisation for the PEEB MED is €460.7 million.**



Green transition: climate resilience, energy, and environment

Flagship 11

Resource efficiency

Construction of the Aqaba-Amman Water Desalination and Conveyor project in Jordan

Jordan is the second most water scarce country in the world. To address the issue, the EU and its Member States are supporting the construction of the Aqaba-Amman Water Desalination and Conveyor project. This flagship project will address Jordan's chronic water shortages by providing annually 300 million m³ of desalinated water across the country, originating from a plant to be constructed in the Gulf of Aqaba in the Red Sea. Works are due to start in 2024. **The total expected investment mobilisation** for the construction of the Aqaba-Amman Water Desalination and Conveyor project is **€2.7 billion**.



€99 million
total EU grant



€30 million
total EU grant

Construction of Al Ghabawi wastewater plant in Jordan

In Jordan, the EU will support the construction of Al Ghabawi wastewater plant, on the outskirts of the capital, Amman. In an area where the influx of Syrian refugees has put additional pressure on the water system, this infrastructure project will help manage water resources sustainably and will also pilot innovative solution to re-use treated wastewater for irrigation purposes, thus contributing to food security in the country.

Flagship 12

Sustainable food systems, agricultural and rural development

"Al Ard Al Khadraa" (Terre Verte) programme in Morocco

In Morocco, the EU finances the "Al Ard Al Khadraa" (Terre Verte) programme for environmental, inclusive and innovative development in agriculture and forestry, a sector responsible for 10% to 15% of the country's gross national product. It supports the green transition in both sectors, creating decent jobs and sustainable innovation. Additionally, it aims at improving decent employment, green entrepreneurship, and the social security coverage of workers in both sectors, improving not only the environmental but also the economic conditions of the rural areas in Morocco.



€115 million
total EU grant



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