INTER UNIVERSITY CENTRE DUBROVNIK

DAY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

# UNIVERSITIES AS BRIDGES ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN

27th of November, 15h CET, online

## Background

***"Universities as Bridges Across the Mediterranean,"*** online event brings together Mediterranean higher education stakeholders, academics, students, and other partners and policy makers to support concrete cooperation across learning and teaching, research, and people-to-people exchange.

The event is grounded in the conviction of the **Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik (IUC)** that in a time of profound geopolitical change and growing uncertainty it is more important than ever to strengthen international academic cooperation.

Universities and research institutions have a vital role in sustaining dialogue, building mutual understanding, and creating opportunities for constructive collaboration across political, cultural, and geographical divides. The IUC's mission is founded on the belief that **scholars and universities should be able to meet, exchange ideas, and pursue common academic interests in an independent international environment**. These principles also reflect a longstanding **Mediterranean tradition of diplomacy, openness, and engagement across shores.**

This program therefore focuses on turning renewed efforts such as the EU Pact for the Mediterranean into **practical bridge-building actions:** sustained institutional relationships, meaningful academic mobility, equitable participation, and collaboration in joint programmes, interdisciplinary research, and early-career opportunities. The event also highlights that cooperation must be grounded in **academic freedom, openness, mutual respect, and the equal value of knowledge and expertise across the region**, aiming for lasting relationships rather than isolated exchanges.

**Register here**: https://forms.gle/1PsA5HCWA9mpnJCa6

INTER UNIVERSITY CENTRE DUBROVNIK

DAY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

# UNIVERSITIES AS BRIDGES ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN

27th of November, 15h CET, online

## Agenda

*14:55 | Zoom opens*

***15:00 | Welcome address and opening***

- *Professor Ivan Šimonović, Director of the IUC Dubrovnik; Rapporteur UN Human Rights Committee*

***15:10 | European Commission Priorities and Initiatives***

- *Mr. Francisco Joaquin Gaztelu Mezquiriz, Directorate-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf, Director for North Africa (MENA.A)*

***15:20 | Interactive Bridge-Building Input from the audience***

***15:25 | Student perspective - What kind of bridges do students find necessary?***

- *Simone Lepore, President of Erasmus Student Network*
- Divine Edem Kwadzodeh, Secretary General of All-Africa Students Union
- *Jaber Maataoui, Vice President (North Africa), AASU*

***15:45 | Interactive Bridge-Building Input from the audience***

***15:50 | Tunisian perspective: International collaboration***

- *Professor Wafa Harrar Masmoudi, University of Carthage, Faculty of Legal, Political and Social Sciences*

***16:00 | Interactive Bridge-Building Input from the audience***

***16:05 | IUC statement and synthesis***

- *Professor Gunn Elisabeth Birkelund, Chair of the Executive Committee of the IUC Dubrovnik; Professor Emeritus University of Oslo, former Secretary General, The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters*

***16:15 | Q&A and final reflections***

***16:30 | Closing of the event***