

A Shared Mediterranean for Youth, Mobility, Sustainability and Culture

As the European Commission prepares a [New Pact for the Mediterranean](#), AMWAJ puts forward strategic insights to ensure that this renewed partnership reflects the aspirations and realities of rapidly evolving Mediterranean societies. AMWAJ is committed to supporting a renewed Euro-Mediterranean partnership that puts people and nature at the heart of every decision to reinforce regional and local resilience measures for adapting together to climate change.

1. Youth: From Marginalization to Co-Leadership

Despite making up a large share of the population, Mediterranean youth remain marginalized in policy processes and face structural unemployment and limited mobility.

AMWAJ recommends:

- Invest in youth-led journalism and [climate storytelling](#) to amplify emerging voices and sustainability-oriented narratives.
- Equip young people with [digital tools, financial skills](#), and civic platforms to nurture resilient leadership and innovation.
- Make youth co-creators of policies by consulting them throughout the policymaking cycle.

2. Mobility: For a People-Centered Mediterranean

Mobility frameworks remain fragmented and focused on the narrow lens of security and border-control, restricting access especially for youth, women, and civil society actors.

AMWAJ recommends:

- Multiply and replicate dedicated mobility programmes for civil society, cultural actors, and media professionals beyond academia.
- Reform visa processes for participants in EU-funded programmes, facilitating research, ensuring transparency, and advancing reciprocity.
- Support and increase South-North and North-South exchanges by offering more stipends, research incentives and new channels for youth engagement across the Mediterranean.

3. Sustainability: For A Just Transition

The Mediterranean is a climate hotspot warming 20% faster than the global average causing growing environmental and societal challenges.

AMWAJ recommends:

- Make climate justice a foundational principle of the New Pact, recognizing local and cross-border inequalities.
- Promote cooperation on alternative clean sources of energy like green hydrogen, while embracing nature-based solutions and integrated resource management.

4. Culture: For Vital Intercultural Dialogue

Cultural cooperation has been deprioritized, yet it remains essential for trust, inclusion, and the shared identity traits of Mediterranean.

AMWAJ recommends:

- Support and fund cultural exchanges, especially involving diasporas, youth, and marginalized communities.
- Replicate successful initiatives and integrate storytelling on water, heritage, and identity through Mediterranean platforms, schools, universities, and organizations.

AMWAJ stands ready to collaborate with institutions and communities to co-design meaningful, evidence-based, and culturally rooted solutions that reflect the region's diversity and unity.