

iM:PACT Innovations for the Mediterranean

In 2025, when we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Process and the appointment of the first EC Commissioner for the Mediterranean, the National Foundation for Civil Society Development is launching the program entitled ***iM:PACT Innovations for the Mediterranean***.

The importance of the Mediterranean as a geographical, but also cultural, historical and civilizational meeting point area is truly invaluable. One of the important components of this influence is the Barcelona Process, which was created in 1995 as a result of the Conference of Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers held in Barcelona on 27 and 28 November, under the Spanish presidency of the EU, and represents the first institutional form of Euro-Mediterranean partnership for bilateral and regional relations in the area of so-defined Euro-Mediterranean (EuroMed).

The Mediterranean has always been a meeting place for cultures, languages and peoples, a place where different civilizations come together and contribute to the common heritage of the region, while also building a special identity that has enabled and encouraged strong networks of relationships and a deep sense of regional closeness. However, in recent times, the Mediterranean has also been a place that faces many challenges, such as climate change, marine pollution, unemployment, digital transition and migration, so the solutions are only possible through cooperation based on shared values and goals. This cooperation is all the more important, given that the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Process comes at a time when it is recognized that the stability of this region is becoming crucial for global security, in the face of societal sensitivity and vulnerability.

That is why in 2025, when we still have 5 years until 2030 in which we have to meet as many UN Sustainable Development Goals as possible, the National Foundation is launching an initiative to connect and cooperate with public institutions and foundations/organizations that deal with the Mediterranean in 9 member countries of the European Union, situated in the Mediterranean (Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain), following the first meeting held on the eve of the PHILEA Forum 2023 in Šibenik.

iM:PACT Innovations for the Mediterranean refers to the MED9 and enables public-private partnerships in 9 countries, with the aim of creating new and concrete activities for sustainable development, based on the idea of a just and inclusive society that places people and the Planet at the center of activities and development. Mutual cooperation between the National Foundation and at least one strategic partner from each of MED9 countries as well as foundations - members of PHILEA through different models of networking and synergy will enable implementation of cross-border joint innovations in areas like: children&youth, longevity&active aging, green transition, renewable energy, sustainable tourism, cultural diversity, climate change, food security etc.

The National Foundation has already allocated funds to be invested and matched with the interested strategic partners in the EU member states in the Mediterranean (MED9) in order to create synergy of all change-makers willing to create sustainable development of the Mediterranean in global economic and social reshape of the World after 2030.