

**III Mediterranean University Forum**  
**The Image of Europe in the Mediterranean – Partnership for Education**  
**8-10 June 2006 – MALTA**

**OBJECTIVES & FOCUS**

The III Mediterranean University Forum aims at promoting debate and reflection on European integration, the construction of the image of Europe in the Mediterranean, the Euro-Mediterranean relationships and the building process of the image of the Mediterranean area in the world.

As a continuation of the I and II Forum, the III Mediterranean University Forum will gather over 200 rectors and experts from universities all over the Mediterranean.

The main objective of the Forum is to create a common platform for the discussion of the Euro-Mediterranean issues through an academic approach in order:

- To foster dialogue, cultural knowledge and academic exchange in the Mediterranean area, exchange information and disseminate it.
- To meet the professional and social challenges of the Mediterranean area
- To enhance the attractiveness and visibility of European higher education
- To organise the necessary infrastructure for the event to become an annual meeting point for the quality assurance of the European and the Mediterranean Higher Education area.
- To effectively gather the outcomes of the speeches, present them as a concrete product of the activities and disseminate them widely among partners and other institutions to achieve a multiplier effect and ensure usability after the end of the activities.

New participants at the Forum will be invited to sign the Tarragona Declaration, which was presented for the first time at the II Forum held in Tarragona in June 2005. This document is being seen as the starting point for a Mediterranean higher education area. The debate that will take place this year focuses on the Action Plan included in the Tarragona declaration aiming towards the establishment of tangible results.

Three main round-tables will be organised, focusing on:

- The Euro- Mediterranean Area: a joint north-south professional challenge
- The creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Area of Higher Education
- The European Educational Programmes and their Euro-Mediterranean Dimension

A number of speakers will be invited to deliver papers during the round-tables which will be chaired by leading figures in the European and Mediterranean educational sector. Other sessions will be organised focusing on funding opportunities, regional initiatives, north-south collaboration patterns, life-long learning, project drafting and support. All papers presented at the Forum will be included in a publication that will be presented after the forum and made available in English and French.

## **PROJECT SOUK**

A number of information stands will be set up at the conference venue. The Souk will be a point of reference for participants interested in obtaining:

- Information about the Forum's sponsors and partners
- Information/becoming partners in ongoing projects
- Information from the European Commission regarding project opportunities
- Information from companies providing project and financial management consultancy services
- Information from University Networks active in the European Higher Education Area

## **PARTICIPATION**

Over 200 rectors and experts from universities, academic organisation, the European Commission, investment banks, networks, consultancy companies from all over the Europe and the South Mediterranean will be invited to attend.

A number of new participants from Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Italy, Morocco, Algeria and various international organisations have already registered their interest in attending along with participants at the last Forum. The University of Malta will promote the event through its network of contacts, Embassies and membership in various established networks to promote the widest possible publicity and participation in the event.

Further information can be obtained from:

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