

## **The experience of Niccoló Porcellato – Student of Interpreting. UNINT- Rome, Italy**

***Speech delivered on May 16th 2016 at the ENPI CBCMED Med-Mobil final Conference by Niccoló Porcellato***

ENPI CBCMED representatives,  
President of UNIMED Benjelloun,  
Director of UNIMED Scalisi,  
UNIMED partners,  
Rector Matte Bon,  
Mr. Morales and Mr. Guerrero from the  
Chamber of Commerce of Seville,  
Carmen Torres,  
ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of my colleagues from UNINT University and my peer students from Sapienza University, thank you all for being here today and thank you UNIMED for granting us the chance and the honor to participate to this major project.



I am here today to share with you some considerations and results following our experience at the Jordan partner JUST University in Irbid, a big city in the North of Jordan. Here we took part in many different activities starting from the usual ice-breaking activities, and in less than five minutes the ice was well broken and melted and we were already laughing and moving our hands in the air to better communicate (something we discovered is not typical of Italians only, but rather gesticulating unites the peoples of the Mediterranean).

Our close-knit, harmonious team soon started working on some workshops and cooperation simulations, which were at the core of this project for cross-border cooperation in the Mediterranean. The aim of these group-activities was to develop interregional mobility projects for education, work and volunteering among the nations united under the banner of the Mediterranean Universities Union.

These specialized training sessions helped us gain cross-cutting skills, abilities and knowledge. We got the chance to test our team-working skills and our problem solving and cooperation strategies; but the most important asset we all shared was our innate tendency to be very good at negotiating and reaching a compromise without detriment to regional differences and to cultural diversity.

Ladies and gentlemen, we all know this: We may come from different regions, territories or countries, we may speak different languages, wear different clothes and have different religious beliefs, but, despite all this difference and diversity, we realized that “we are more similar than different”.

In this moment, the main political issue in my region is that of achieving an “even closer Europe”, but from what I gathered from this experience, we young people also feel the need of an even closer Mediterranean Sea, to which we can better relate and identify.

I know this is not the appropriate forum to discuss politics, but please, let me remind you what is at stake, here. Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders. This is not a cliché. This is the honest truth. We are the ones in charge of building a free, open, multicultural society based on harmony among peoples, equity, freedom of thought and mutual understanding.

Only by fostering these aspects will we be able to overcome our biased vision of the world and especially of the Middle East. Conferences like this, and projects such as the short-mobility project in Jordan, are, I believe, the right way to plant a little seed in the garden of our lives. A tiny seed that in the fertile land of our Mediterranean hearts, will grow into a lush, luxuriant tree. The tree of multiculturalism, mutual understanding and tolerance.

This is why I really hope that Med-Mobil and its partners will continue developing and fostering mobility projects and cross-cultural events of this kind.

I wish you well in the work ahead and I thank you for your kind attention.

Niccolò Porcellato