

## **Call for Applications: Youth Economic Research Forum Libya's Next Generation Shaping Their Future**

### **Background**

The Youth Economic Research Forum is a Libya Development Trust Fund project implemented by the Luiss Mediterranean Platform, in partnership with the UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union. The project seeks to empower Libya's youth by providing them with an inclusive platform to think about and contribute to the discussion of Libya's economic development potential. We invite passionate and dedicated individuals interested in research and policy analysis to apply for this program.

### **Program Overview**

The program is expected to run from October 2024 to June 2025.

During the first part, which will be held online, participants will receive research training to learn the basics of conducting policy research. By the end of this part, participants will finalize their selection of one topic related to the future of Libya's economy and collect information on it. Participants will not be expected to produce complete policy papers, but rather to have collected useful, relevant information which they can use to have an informed evidence-based discussion on their issue of interest.

In the second part, participants will take part of online policy focus groups, which will bring them together with youth leaders, academics, and practitioners to engage on the key issues related to Libya's development trajectory. Additionally, one to two final sessions will also be held in presence. In these sessions, the participants will present and discuss their research findings with the goal of contributing to a final joint statement on the future of Libya's economy from the youth's perspectives.

### **Scope of the Call for Applications**

As a pilot initiative, the program will involve approximately 20 participants. In order to select the best candidates, this call is open to applicants from the Peace Makers Libya's Youth Platform and all UNIMED-associated universities in Libya. After reviewing the applications, 8 participants will be selected from the Peace Makers Libya's Youth Platform network and 12 will be selected from the UNIMED-associated Libyan universities.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- Applicants must be between 22 and 35.
- Enrolled at a Libyan university or have relevant professional or community experience.
- Have a strong interest in the policy research and analysis as well as the Libyan economy.
- Readiness to engage actively in all phases of the program, demonstrating substantial commitment, dedication, and effort.

We encourage young women to apply and are committed to ensuring a fair gender representation throughout the selection process.

## What We Offer

- A chance to be part of an inclusive platform for dialogue and development.
- Engagement with a network of peers, experts, and relevant Libyan and international stakeholders.
- Skill development in research, analysis, and policy dialogue.
- A unique opportunity to explore and shape the future economic policy and development of Libya.

## Application Process

1. **Introduction and motivation:** Your application should include a brief introduction of yourself and your background; why you want to join the program; and what you aim to achieve (**150 words in English**).
2. **Proposal:** Your application should include a proposal of your research topic not exceeding one page or 500 words, submitted in Arabic.

Your proposal should cover the following:

- a. **Topic:** A clear statement of your research interest.
  - b. **Importance/Relevance:** The importance of your research topic in the current Libyan context and its impact on it.
  - c. Include your first and last name in the document file name.
3. **Resume:** Your application should include a resume in Arabic with the following:
    - a. Full name
    - b. Contact information (telephone and email)
    - c. Relevant work experience
    - d. Relevant university experience
    - e. Extracurricular activities (if any)

Please use this [link](#) to apply.

## Deadline for Applications

The deadline for submitting your applications is **July 16, 2024**. Any applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Applicants will be notified of their application status by September 2024.

## Evaluation

Selection of successful applications will be based on the overall application, including proposal quality, the criteria outlined above, and an interview process. We seek balanced representation in terms of gender, geography, and university affiliation. As eligibility is competitive, it is crucial to prepare your application carefully.

## Implementing Partners

[The LUISS Mediterranean Platform](#) is a research, dialogue, and educational program at the School of Government, Luiss Guido Carli University, Rome, Italy. It offers a space for collective reflection on the opportunities and challenges of the Mediterranean region and promotes informed policymaking and advocacy at the national and transnational levels.

The Platform seeks to nurture a deeper understanding of the region by offering insights into the multifaceted transformation of societies and politics and by addressing long-term trends and dynamics. It builds upon innovative, rigorous and policy-relevant field-based research and active collaborations with researchers, practitioners and policymakers from across the region.

The Platform has conducted research mentorship and policy dialogue programs for over five years. The Platform facilitated policy research production by guiding junior policy analysts throughout every step of the research production process. It has delivered over 300 hours of trainings to more than 15 policy analysts and produced 15 publications in the past years. Their work has brought invaluable insights into the Libya's evolving policy challenges, covering the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict dynamics, and the provision of public services across various regions in the country.

It has also managed the Peace Makers Libya's Youth Platform, holding 12 policy dialogue sessions for over 85 active, influential youth across the country. The sessions focused on themes related to economic visions in times of transition and national reconciliation. The Platform is a safe space for collective discussions among youth and acts as a bridge for dialogue between youth leaders and high-level experts and decision-makers in Libya.

**UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union** – is a network of Higher Education and Research Institutions, active in promoting academic cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean, Sub-Saharan African, Middle Eastern, and Western Balkan regions. The image that best represents our association is that of a university without walls. It counts 162 associated universities and research centers from 25 countries on both shores of the Mediterranean.

UNIMED has been actively involved in Libya, conducting several initiatives there since 2015. One notable initiative is the [Libya Restart Initiative](#), which involved an in-depth analysis of the Libyan Higher Education system. UNIMED is currently coordinating two Erasmus+ capacity-building projects and participating in five others, all of which engage numerous Libyan universities.

UNIMED places a strong emphasis on youth engagement, exemplified by initiatives such as the Mediterranean Student Summit. This event's primary goals are to: 1) enhance mutual awareness and understanding among Mediterranean region students; 2) support the development of competencies for collaborative problem-solving on societal challenges; and 3) establish meaningful connections. The second round of the summit brought together 25 students from UNIMED countries and resulted in a set of recommendations for improving the Higher Education systems in the region. Unfortunately, four Libyan students selected for participation were unable to attend due to visa issues.

**The Libya Development Trust Fund (LDTF)**, managed by the World Bank, aims to build the conditions required to move towards peace and political settlements in Libya, contributing to the country's transition out of fragility. It is a small, focused program that provides technical assistance and analytical support to Libyan stakeholders. At the heart of the LDTF are fostering dialogue between a broad group of Libyan stakeholders on the challenges facing the country, as well as supporting some of the necessary conditions for reform readiness.