

MEDNET 2 – Innovation, exchange, networking for a new  
leading class in the Mediterranean

## **Third COUNTRY REPORT : Morocco**

Update Thematic Dossier #3:

Youth mobility, exchange, study and training  
opportunities through the Mediterranean Area

Insight:

# Experiences and good practices in the field of Youth mobility in the Med Countries

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Strategically located less than three hours from the main European cities, Morocco is one of the most dynamic countries in the African continent in term of commercial exchanges.

Historically, Morocco is the country that has endured various dynasties during many centuries. Along every dynasty, there was a foreigner power that has occupied the Kingdom of Morocco for centuries and to which many cities have succumbed, from The Portuguese, to The Spanish and finally the French, all have impacted Morocco in its culture, architecture and economy. These protectorates were a strain force in bilateral and trilateral Exchange-Trades and workforces. Visas which are the stamped document that allow individuals to cross the borders, were not an issue, therefore the mobility between Morocco and Europe was not regulated and everyone could travel to Europe either for business, studies, work or totally for immigration.

Indeed, during the past two decades many people emigrated from Morocco to Europe. No doubt many others would like to leave; an over-population of immigration has become valuable. This evidence pushed the European Union to regulate the cross-borders by implementing various laws and regulations that include (Visa Types: Touristic Visa, Business Visa, Student Visa, Marriage Visa and others...). Every Visa type has rules, requirements and procedures. Regardless of the fact that these regulations have shipped the way of traveling around Europe, it did build at the same time, a difficult bridge for youth mobility around the Mediterranean.

Being genius, a scholar or a smart student is none of the criteria that will allow you to seize an opportunity abroad and share with others your pertinences. First of all, you must demonstrate financial abilities which are today, a strong link that holds you to your country and the purpose of your travel. Many students don't have the financial statements to demonstrate their needs in following their studies in Europe, looking for an internship or just for a cultural exchange. These rules of control make the mobility of youth in the Mediterranean Basin very shrinking. These facts have contributed in the rising voice hearing of some civil society militants, that recognize the issue is far than just being able to have the means, but it is related to the fact that immigration was and still the key element that has linked Morocco and the EU for several decades.

The need to work hand in hand with the EU in a context of partnership with an objective of ensuring a better management of cross-traveling; based on a comprehensive approach, was, necessary for mutual benefits. Both parts have decided during different meetings to establish a Mobility Partnership with objectives which are often related to "Legal Immigration and studies". In a

Framework of the dialogue on Mobility exchange and Security that was held in October 2011, 2012, and 2013; the EU and Morocco have decided to manage the movement of persons for short and long periods. Migration has been also a part of the concern in order to combat illegal immigration of all kinds. Develop plans and strategies from which both parts can generate positive outcomes in term of, exploiting the potential of the individuals. Furthermore, this dialogue does promote an effective integration and admission policy while respecting human rights and ensuring the dignity of the people concerned.

To this end of dialogue, it was concluded that, the partnerships will attempt in developing further dialogues and cooperations on Mobility, with an enthusiasm that shares responsibility and solidarity along with the following lines:

- To increase in value and make a better plan for the conditions of consular services and procedures in issuing the SCHENGEN VISA.
- To keep the unreeling cooperation on simplifying the procedures for legal entry and stays (Including the multiple-entry and longer-term visas, besides, waiving administrative fees for some categories of people).
- To start a negotiating agreement to facilitate the issuing of Visas, in order to have more fluid Mobility between the EU and Morocco.
- To cooperate in facilitating mutual recognition of vocational and academic qualifications.

More than 20 other lines were discussed, the objective remain the same, increase legal mobility between both parties.

From another perspective, academically and educationally, the Kingdom of Morocco has developed during the last 10 years promising strategies and initiatives for legal Mobility and precisely “Youth and Academic Mobility”. Morocco has first improved the national program of education. New Universities equipped with high touch academic materials and technologies were built. Followed by new study programs in various fields, as in fields that have not been the primary interest of Morocco in the past decades, for instance: Aerospatale, Renewable Energy, Cosmos studies and more. These fields of studies have been the occasion to develop exchange programs with universities around the world and mostly with Europe. The exchange programs are combined in a form of exchange studies (Erasmus), or trainings and internships. Student from Morocco, are expected to choose a partnership institution or university where to spend one semester up to two semesters studying the same subject matter related to his or her field of studies. The internship program is also a part of this

initiative and, it is often led by Youth Leadership Associations, the better known is “AIESEC”. Scholarship merits, are being as well a part of these enhanced changes. Grants are offered for Doctorates students with the option to follow their doctorate abroad in fields of science, math, physics and engineering. Always in the exchange study program, Morocco has increased in the last two years by more than 7% of students that study in Europe. For instance, and more commonly, France, is the country that statically represents the large number of Moroccan students. More than 33 899 students were identified by “Campus France Maroc” in 2013, and approximately 35.000 that entered France to study between 2014 & 2015. A small decrease comparing to 2013, yet, Moroccan students remain the first international population for France in term of “Mobility Studies”, around the world, followed by China and then Algeria as the third ranked country.

In February 2014, a program was welcomed between Morocco, France, Italy and Tunisia. The program promotes (Mobility and Networking) and it will ends in 9 of August 2016. This program is an action Grant with a total amount of 555 265.80 €, it targets the Trade Education and Training sectors.

Nonetheless, far from the government initiatives, tremendous efforts are allocated to Civil Society workers: Associations and NGOs. Forum Connecting Cultures, is a Moroccan no-profit and no-governmental youth exchange organization that promotes youth mobility, intercultural learning and international voluntary services. Forum connecting Cultures, contributes through various projects as EUROMED and ERASMUS plus. Their working field is mainly focused on young people from local communities (Schools, universities, house of youth, youth associations and clubs...). They also focus on developing opportunities for youth that have difficult social and economic backgrounds, to help them to go abroad to experience intercultural exchanges, trainings course, seminars etc. These efforts, made the organization to become a part of a large mobility and exchange programs with ANNA LINDH Foundation.

Morocco has also made efforts for the other part around. In other words, the strategy of Youth Mobility in Morocco does not include only the Moroccan students but also, it does offer mobility facilities for students that want to study in Morocco. One of the singularity of the Moroccan education system resides in the fact that a number of foreigner students are welcomed every semester and every year. According to Johara Berriane, who is a researcher and a an active writer, "one of the first motivation is the procurement of a Scholarship given to international students, it is a study scholarship given by the Moroccan Agency of International Cooperation, it is considered and taken in consideration by international students as an opportunity that they might not have in their home country". Every year, Morocco allocates between 6000 and 6800 scholarship students. Sub-Sahariens are also motivated for the idea of a better life environment and a better future.

In a conducted survey, 300 foreigner students emphasize unanimously on the same motivation elements: Scholarship, study environment, the diversity of cultures and the freedom of practicing your own beliefs and religion, tolerance has made Morocco a country where Synagogues, Mosques and Cathedrals neighbors in term of building architectures closeness and mutual respect. In a published study made in the last of 2011 by the Ministry of Higher Education, 11 577 students are enrolled in Moroccan State and Private universities/schools and institutions.

The Direction of prospectations and Evaluations of the same ministry, has published as well a study that demonstrates the variety of ethnicities of international student studying in morocco. 134 countries are the nationalities of students studying in Morocco, 40% Africans, 66% are from Europe, Asia and America,16% are Arabs and finely 16% from other different countries.

In addition to the above elements of motivation, the below table explains the multiples motivational aspects by division of interest: Reason of Mobility	Number	Percentage %
Studies	175	58,33
Adventures	2	0,67
Hazard	1	0,33
Scholarship	43	14,3
Curiosity	1	0,33
Misfortune	1	0,33

Language	4	1,33
Religion	2	0,67
Transit	1	0,33
Quality of Studies	5	1,67
Family Move	4	1,33
Exchange	2	0,67
Others	49	16,33
No specified Reasons	10	3,33
Total	300	100%

Even though, the student migration has been considered as a transit migration, Morocco has become since few years' ago, a welcoming country and a master actor in term of foreigner youth mobility.

Young interest in mobility is clearly demonstrated by the success of programs such as Erasmus+, Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs and others. Thus, the visibility of Erasmus+ program should be increased so that young people can benefit regardless of their social background. Until now, the program has promoted the sense of active European citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans and to involve them in shaping the union's future. However, other students from others countries, especially in the Mediterranean including Morocco, do not benefit directly from it. You should be enrolled either in a university that has an exchange program and they are few, or, you must be studying in Europe under a student Visa, and this is not a total Mobility exchange benefit.

The Moroccan government, along with the European Union and social parties, must first work on improving migration strategies. To explore new migration patterns for young people. Second, to stimulate youth labor rights and temporary migration of young people using motivational incentives in order to create a legal harmonization between both youth societies. Decision makers should as well, take in consideration the impact that their political decision can have on the youth mobility initiative and draw a visionary schema related to the youth improvement in all aspects. This will lead to a healthy mobility where both side will gain, experience in an international work environment and improve their cultural, language, social and humanitarian skills. At the same time, it can help in reducing the burden on the welfare systems for both side, especially in the countries that has a high level of jobless people, some youth,

through mobility can for example, be placed as a human resources where they are needed and gaining, sharing cultural experiences. That can be done with the idea of temporary migrant procedure. Enhanced cooperation must be signed in vocational education and trainings. This way, every part can benefit commonly from the same rights of mutual mobility in all terms: Education, Culture, Research and Employment.