



**MedOr**  
LEONARDO  
FOUNDATION

# **Med-Or Foundation: 3 years of activity**

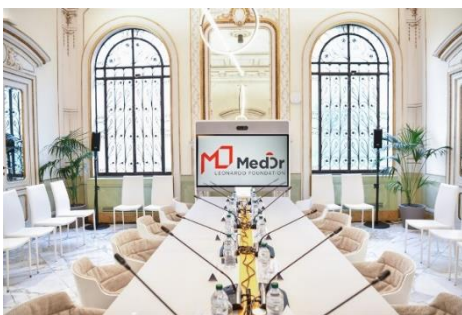
**2021-2024**

[www.med-or.org](http://www.med-or.org)

## **Med-Or Foundation: 3 years of activity 2021-2024**

### **Med-Or's mission**

The Med-Or Foundation was created in the Spring of 2021 with the aim to consolidate relations between Italy, Europe, and the countries of the Broader Mediterranean – an area that spans the Mediterranean, the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and the Red Sea (“Med”), as well as the Middle East (“Or”) – by promoting constructive dialogue and international cooperation through cultural initiatives, research, and scientific projects.



Med-Or, in its three years of activity, has supported initiatives of public diplomacy and the development of projects in the fields of higher education and professional training, through the financing of scholarships aimed for students from all and any Mediterranean countries. It also undertakes joint research activities with relevant international think tanks and research institutes to develop new prospects for cooperation as well as scientific and training projects. In its work the Foundation involves individuals and professionals with great national and international experience in the institutional, industrial and academic fields.

## How Med-Or is organized

The Foundation is composed by various organs, each with specific functions and skills: the **Board of Directors** with 11 members; the **Board of Auditors** with three members; the **Strategic Committee**; the **Supervisory Body** with three members; the **Scientific Committee** with 42 members, including 16 Rectors from important Italian universities.

Moreover, the Foundation is enriched by an **International Board**, the body reflecting Med-Or's international projection.



The International Board is composed by **32** leading figures from the international political, diplomatic and academic spheres; coming from various countries in the Mediterranean and Euro-Atlantic areas, such as **Algeria, Bahrain, Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, North Macedonia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, UK, United Arab Emirates, USA, Zambia.**



## What we do

### Med-Or's activities: the numbers



**600** advanced education, vocational education and, educational support programs



**10** research projects on space, security, energy, connectivity, climate and environment, defense, and digital development in the MENA region



**80** Memoranda of Understandings (MoU) in the fields of cultural diplomacy and cross fertilization



**200** informative articles in the fields of geopolitics and strategy, including special reports, and weekly, monthly, and yearly reports



**30** countries involved through the financing of scholarships for students and researchers



## Med-Or's activities in details

### 1. International Partnerships

The Foundation has signed **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with several **Mediterranean countries and institutional partners**, to develop cultural initiatives, and research and training projects:

- People's Democratic Republic of **Algeria**
- Ministry of Presidential Affairs of the **United Arab Emirates**
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of **Jordan**
- **Kurdistan Region and Republic of Iraq** Government
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of **Lebanon**
- Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation and Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication of the Kingdom of **Morocco**
- Ministry of Culture, Youth, Sports and Relations with Parliament of the Islamic Republic of **Mauritania**
- Presidency of the Republic of **Niger**
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of **Qatar**
- **Somalia** Federal Republic
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs **Sudan**
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of **Turkey**
- Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of **Yemen**

Partnership agreements with regional research institutes and think tanks:

- Center for Strategic Research of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey (**SAM**)
- Delphi Economic Forum, Greece (**DEF**)
- Emirates Policy Center, UAE (**EPC**)
- Institute for National Security Studies, Israel (**INSS**)
- King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, Saudi Arabia (**KFCRIS**)
- German Marshall Fund, USA (**GMF**)
- Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam (**DAV**)
- European Center for Electoral Support (**ECES**)
- Nasser Vocational Training Centre, Bahrain (**NVTC**)
- International Institute for Iranian Studies, Saudi Arabia (**Rasanah Institute**)
- Council for Strategic and Defense Research, India (**CSDR**)
- King Saud University, Saudi Arabia (**KSU**)
- Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy, UAE (**AGDA**)
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (**PAM**)

## 2. Cultural Initiatives

- Travelling exhibition “**Mediterranea. Visions of an ancient and complex sea**” inaugurated in June 2023 in Lebanon, as part of an agreement with the General Directorate for the promotion of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation’s system, in cooperation with Telespazio, the European Space Agency, the Italian Space Agency, and e-GEOS



- Event “**Nouakchott: Arab magic between past and future**”, dedicated to the presentation of the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott, as the cultural capital of the Islamic world for the year 2023, realized in collaboration with the Mauritanian Ministry of Culture and the Mauritanian Embassy



- Fashion show “**Mediterranean Sunset**”, at MAXXI in Rome, focused on Mediterranean countries’ traditional costumes and organized by the Italo-Lebanese Cultural Institute, under the patronage of the Embassy of Lebanon in Italy



- “**Methexis Project**”, project organized by the Methexis Onlus Association as part of the 29th edition of the MedFilm festival, with the participation of 15 cinema students from countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region, who received specialized training and participated as jurors in the International Short Film Competition (Methexis Jury)



### 3. Research and Higher Education Programs

The Foundation promotes Higher Education initiatives, educational programs and research projects. In three years around **600 scholarships** have been awarded to students from various Mediterranean and African countries. In the field of Higher Education, Med-Or has endorsed training programs in different fields, financing **scholarships** for **Master's degrees, specialization courses, and for Doctoral and post-doctoral research grants.**



The scholarships funded by Med-Or have been awarded to students of various nationalities, from over **26 countries and territories**, including **Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, French Polynesia, Germany, Jordan, Kurdistan Region, India, Indonesia, Israel, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestinian National Authority, Qatar, Rwanda, Somalia, Tigray Region, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, and Vietnam.**



## National and international partnership agreements for higher education and research activities

Med-Or has signed several partnerships and programs for the awarding of scholarships with the following universities, institutions and research institutes:

- LUISS Guido Carli
- LUISS School of Government
- Università degli Studi della Tuscia
- Università degli Studi di Roma Tre
- Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche dell'Università di Roma Tre
- Campus Bio Medico
- Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
- Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata
- Università di Napoli L'Orientale
- Università degli Studi di Siena
- Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II
- Università degli Studi Internazionali di Roma
- Università degli Studi di Foggia
- Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV)
- Assemblea Parlamentare del Mediterraneo (PAM)
- Consorzio ICoN
- Mohammed VI Polytechnic University di Rabat
- The University of Jordan
- Wilson Center di Washington D.C.
- University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University di Hanoi
- Universitas Gadjah Mada di Yogyakarta

## Other collaboration agreements signed by Med-Or

- Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca (**MUR**)
- Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia (**IIT**)
- Conferenza dei Rettori delle Università Italiane (**CRUI**)
- Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (**CNR**)
- Fondazione ENEA Tech e Biomedical
- Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari (**CIHEAM**)
- **IPE** Business School
- Istituto internazionale Scienze Mediche Antropologiche e Sociali (**IISMAS**)
- Società Italiana per l'Organizzazione Internazionale (**SIOI**)
- Fondazione **MAXXI**
- Confederazione Italiana Federazioni Autonome (**CIFA**)
- Associazione Diplomatici

## 4. Research projects and strategic analysis projects

- Predictive analysis and research's special projects in collaboration with the **Italian Government Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the General Director for public and cultural diplomacy of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- **May 2023 - The War in Ukraine and the Mediterranean Nexus**, related to the strategic, economic, security and foreign politics ramifications of the Ukrainian War, discussed during the seminar organized with the German Marshall Fund, the Compagnia di San Paolo, the Policy Center for the New South and Alexander Philon Fund for the Transatlantic Partnership, as part of the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Mediterranean Strategy Group
- **September 2023 - Prospect for Saudi-Iran Relations. Implications for the Region and the International System**, related to the Saudi - Iran relations, concluded with a seminary in collaboration with the International Institute for Iranian Studies

- **October 2022/June 2023 - Research on Cooperation between the UAE and Italy/UE**, study on Italy (Europe) - UAE (Gulf) political, economic, and cultural relations with a focus on energy, space, digital connectivity, defense, and food security. The main results have been discussed in the seminar “**New Horizons for cooperation between Italy and the UAE**”, held in Rome, which was attended by Italian experts from think tank, industrial world and finance, influential academic figures from UAE, Italian and Emirati diplomats. Moreover, the main points of the discussion have been summarized in the document “**A new beginning in the Italy - UAE relations**”, which has been sent to both the Italian President of the Republic, to the president of the Council of Ministers, the Government, and the UAE Presidency.

In June 2023, a second seminar “**Strengthening Italy-UAE Cooperation**” has concluded the project with a dialogue between Italian and Emirati experts related to the Italian - UAE relation on Africa, energy transition and its future



- **July 2023/May 2024 - Digital Geopolitics:** research project in collaboration with Center for International and Strategic Studies (CISS) of the Luiss Guido based in Rome, in the framework of the “Geopolitics and Technology. New paradigms of development: challenges, security and democracy” call for proposals issued by the **Compagnia di San Paolo Foundation** within the Mission “Fostering international opportunities” of the *Planet Goal*. The project plans the production of 11 research papers from Italian and International students. The objective is to study how international relations are changing due to the emergence of new technologies which could influence digital politics. At the end of the project, the final conference scheduled on May 2024 at Luiss Guido Carli University will discuss the main results and involve the main national institutional stakeholders to reinforce the related ideas in the Italian arena

- **October 2023 - “The Silent Enemy: Presence and Evolution of the Jihadist Threat in the Broader Mediterranean”,** first Med-Or Foundation’s **Special Report** authored by Andrea Manciuili, Med-Or’s Director of Institutional Relations, analyzing the state of play of threats linked to terrorism and jihadist radicalism in the geopolitical and geographical space of the Broader Mediterranean. The report has been presented on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 at Luiss Guido Carli University in Rome



- **March 2024 - “The crisis in the Red Sea and the implications for Italy”,** second Med-Or **Special Report** authored by Umberto Tavolato, Med-Or Special Projects O.U Director, furnishing a detailed analysis of the situation of the Red Sea, of the Gulf of Aden and of the wider Horn of Africa context. The report has been presented on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at Med-Or’s headquarter, in the context of the Workshop on “The crisis in the Red Sea and the implications for Italy”





- **Med-Or Annual Report 2023**, “Geopolitics, economy and security in the Broader Mediterranean”. Med-Or Annual Report is a collection of analyses of the main facts and events of 2022 in the different countries of the Broader Mediterranean



- **Med-Or Yearbook 2024**, produced by Med-Or in partnership with Luiss University Press, is the second Med-Or annual report analyzing the main facts and events of 2023 in the different countries of the Broader Mediterranean

Fondazione Med-Or  
Il Mediterraneo  
globale

Prefazione di Marco Minniti

LUISS

## 5. Workshop and Conferences

Since 2021, Med-Or has realized several in-depth initiatives, workshop, and conferences, collaborating with national and international stakeholders:

- July 2021 - Med-Or Day first edition**, public launch of Med-Or Foundation, which opened the doors of its offices in Rome to meet with stakeholders from Italy and all over the world. Following an introduction by the Chairman of the Foundation, Marco Minniti, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held with the presence of the Leonardo company management, Chairman Luciano Carta and CEO Alessandro Profumo, and government ministers Luigi Di Maio, Luciana Lamorgese, Lorenzo Guerini, Mara Carfagna and Andrea Orlando, the Delegated Authority Undersecretary for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers Franco Gabrielli and the President of the Lazio Region Nicola Zingaretti



- October 2021 - Award ceremony of the first Scholarships financed by Med-Or** in collaboration with Luiss Guido Carli of Rome and Mohammed VI Polytechnic University of Rabat, at the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi Di Maio. Present at the event, in addition to the President of Med-Or Foundation Marco Minniti, also the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco Youssef Balla and prominent exponents of the Luiss Guido Carli University



- October 2021 - Med-Or Foundation and Leonardo company donate fifty oxygen concentrators to the Republic of Niger.** The ceremony was held at the Foundation's headquarters in Rome, in the presence of Rhissa Ag Boula, the Minister of State at the Presidency of the Republic of Niger, and Salim Mokaddem, the Advisor to the President of the Republic. Alessandro Profumo, CEO of Leonardo, also attended the event chaired by Marco Minniti, Chairman of Med-Or, and Letizia Colucci, Med-Or General Manager



- **December 2021** – Ceremony for the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding** between Med-Or’s Chairman Marco Minniti and the **Somalia Minister of Foreign Affairs** S.E. Abdisaid Muse Ali. The Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Luigi Di Maio, and the Somalia Education Minister S.E. Abdullahi Abukar Haji were present at the event



- **“The Middle East in the new Geopolitical Disorder”**, public panel promoted by the Med-Or Foundation and the Atlantic Council, held in Rome



- **July 2022** - **“Italy and France in the Broader Mediterranean”**, panel promoted by Med-Or, the Embassy of France to Italy and Formiche. The panel has also debated Gilles Kepel’s book **“Il ritorno del Profeta. Perché il destino dell’Occidente si decide in Medio Oriente”**



- **July 2022** - **“The war in Ukraine and the Mediterranean nexus”**, conference on the Ukrainian war and its ramifications in the Mediterranean region during the second edition of the Med-Or Day, with the participation of the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Luigi Di Maio, the Minister of the Defence, Lorenzo Guerini, and the Repubblica head, Maurizio Molinari



- **November 2022** – Presentation of the book **“Il Mediterraneo e l’Italia. Dal mare nostrum alla centralità comprimaria”** by Egidio Ivetic, Professor of Eastern European History at the University of Padua. The speakers were Med-Or Foundation Chairman, Marco Minniti; the Chief of Defense Staff, Giuseppe Cavo Dragone; Lucio Caracciolo, Director of Limes; Germano Dottori, Scientific Advisor of Limes; Alessia Melcangi, Associate Professor of Contemporary History of North Africa and the Middle East at La Sapienza University of Rome. The meeting was moderated by Alessandro Giuli





- **December 2022 - “Italy, Niger. Europe, Africa. Two continents. One destiny”** with the participation of the President of the Republic of Niger, Mohamed Bazoum, the Minister of Defense Guido Crosetto, the Minister of the Interior Matteo Piantedosi, and the Minister of University and Research Anna Maria Bernini



- **February 2023 - “Italy, Somalia. A special relationship”**, with the participation of the President of the Republic of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the Minister of Foreign and International Cooperation Antonio Tajani, the Minister of the Interior Matteo Piantedosi, and the Minister of Defence, Guido Crosetto



- **February 2023** – First edition of the seminar **“Italy-France: crossed gazes on the Mediterranean”**, in collaboration with the magazine Limes and the French think-tank La Vigie, hosted by Med-or Foundation with geopolitical and security experts from Italy and France

- **May 2023** – First meeting of the **Med-Or International Board**: the International Board is the organ that reflects Med-Or’s international projection, composed of leading figures from the international political, diplomatic, and academic worlds, from several countries of the Mediterranean and Euro-Atlantic area



- **May 2023 - “Mediterraneo: il futuro è donna”**, with the participation of Ebtesam Al-Ketbi, President of the Emirates Policy Center, Alia Hatoug-Bouran, former Minister of Culture of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Mayamba Cindy Mwanawasa, Political Advisor to the President of the Republic of Zambia, Radmila Sekerinska, former Minister of Defense of North Macedonia, and Bahija Simou, Director of the Royal Archives of the Kingdom of Morocco



- **July 2023** – “Italy, Europe, the Mediterranean: for a new vision of the national interest”, panel discussion between Roberto Cingolani, CEO of Leonardo, and Pierroberto Folgiero, CEO of Fincantieri, introduced by Med-Or’s Chairman Marco Minniti and Minister of Defence Guido Crosetto, in the context of the third edition of Med-Or Day



- **September 2023** – **In depth workshop** on the **relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran** organized jointly with the Saudi Arabia International Institute for Iranian Studies (Rasanah Institute)

- **October 2023** - “The Silent enemy”, presentation of the first Special Report of Med-Or Foundation at Luiss Guido Carli University in Rome authored by Andrea Manciuilli. The event was attended by the Undersecretary to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and Delegated Authority for the Security of the Republic, Alfredo Mantovano, the President of Copasir, Lorenzo Guerini, the Chairman of Med-Or Foundation, Marco Minniti, the distinguished Arabist and expert on terrorism, Gilles Kepel, and the Rector of Luiss, Andrea Prencipe



- **October 2023** - “**Workshop – The role of Iran in the global balance**”, with the Italian Ambassador to Tehran, Giuseppe Perrone

- **October 2023** - Panel “**Gulf Approaches and Priorities to Mediation and Conflict Resolution**”, held by Med-Or Foundation with the participation of Luigi Di Maio, EU Special Representative for the Gulf region, Mansour Almarzoqi, Director of Center for Strategic Studies, Prince Saud al-Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies, Mohammed Ibrahim Al Dhaheri, Deputy Director General, Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy of the United Arab Emirates, and Anna-Maria Panagiotakopoulou, Head of Division for the Arabian Peninsula and Iraq in the EEAS



- **October 2023 - Webinar “Transatlantic Cooperation on the Chronic Threat of Extremism in the Broader Mediterranean”**, organized to discuss the Special Report by Andrea Manciuilli in collaboration with the Middle East Institute. The webinar also saw the participation of Emily Blout (Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University, Center for Jewish Civilization), Charles Lister (Senior Fellow, Director of Syria and Countering Terrorism & Extremism programs, Middle East Institute), Brian Katulis (Vice President of Policy, Middle East Institute), and Lorenzo Vidino (Director of the Program on Extremism, George Washington University).



- **January 2024 - Interview with Somalia’s President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud**, on the sidelines of the Italy-Africa conference with the Editor in Chief of la Repubblica, Maurizio Molinari



- **March 2024 - Event “Italy, Europe, and NATO and the future of the Mediterranean”**, held at the Center for High Defense Studies, with the participation of the Permanent Representative of Italy to NATO, Marco Peronaci, Ambassador of the United States to Italy, Jack Markell, Chief of the Defense Staff, Giuseppe Cavo Dragone, and with the Italian Defense Minister, Guido Crosetto



- **March 2024 - Workshop “The crisis in the Red Sea and the implications for Italy”**, and presentation of the Report “The Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. Dynamics, main risks and strategic considerations” by Umberto Tavolato. The close door seminar was attended by Luigi Di Maio, EU Special Representative for the Gulf region; Alex De Waal, Executive Director of the World Peace Foundation at Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy; and Farea Al-Muslimi, Chatham House.

- **April 2024** - Second edition of the seminar “Italy-France: crossed gazes on the Mediterranean”, in collaboration with Limes and La Vigie, held at Palais Bourbon in Paris, with the presence of geopolitical and security experts from Italy and France



Méditerranée, Italie et France (MIF)  
Regards croisés sur la Méditerranée  
II<sup>ème</sup> édition  
Séminaire organisé à Paris  
par La Vigie, Med-Or et Limes, 22 et 23 avril 2024.

- **May 2024** - Presentation of the Luiss Master in “Mediterranean Cooperation and Security”, in collaboration with the Luiss School of Government and its Dean, Giovanni Orsina, with the presence of the Minister of University and Research, Anna Maria Bernini, and the journalist of La7 and Radio24, David Parenzo



For more information on Med-Or Foundation’s activities

[www.med-or.org](http://www.med-or.org)





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