Francesca Abate, Giovanni Canitano, Salvatore Capasso, Stefano Carotenuto, Sandro Cruciani, Francesco di Filippo, Luca Forte, Anna Pia Maria Mirto, Marco Ricci, Antonio Rossi

WeMed

Society, Economy, and Environment in the Mediterranean

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Society, economy and environment in the Mediterranean

2024 Edition

Francesca Abate, Giovanni Canitano, Salvatore Capasso, Stefano Carotenuto, Sandro Cruciani, Francesco di Filippo, Luca Forte, Anna Pia Maria Mirto, Marco Ricci, Antonio Rossi

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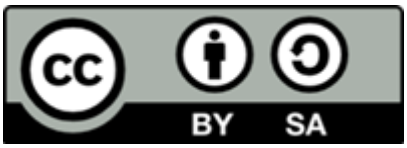


This book is dedicated to Marco Ricci, a dear friend and esteemed colleague, who supported the joint CNR–Istat project from its very beginnings. With rigour, passion, and remarkable humanity, he helped shape a shared and interdisciplinary path of research.

Over the course of his long career at Istat, Marco made a passionate and lasting contribution to the development of official statistics. He worked tirelessly on the quality of production processes, the dissemination of statistical information, and the territorial valorisation of data. He managed relationships with bodies within the National Statistical System, coordinated editorial initiatives, and played an active role in the organisation of national censuses. Deeply committed to staff training, he championed statistical innovation with precision and a spirit of collaboration, leaving a lasting legacy within the professional community.

A thoughtful scholar and insightful observer of socio-economic dynamics – most recently focusing on Mediterranean issues – Marco brought together analytical depth and critical vision, becoming both an intellectual and moral guide to our entire team.

His attentive listening, respect for others' ideas, tireless scientific commitment, and genuine enthusiasm for research have left a deep and enduring impression on us all.

As we carry this project forward, his memory will remain with us-alive in the thoughts, words, and goals we shared.

Farewell, Marco.

WeMed. Society, economy and environment in the Mediterranean

Authors of thematic and methodological pages

Giovanni Canitano (CNR-ISMed) – Labor Market; Labor and Gender
Luca Forte (CNR-ISMed) – Macroeconomics and public finance; International relations; Other economic issues; Infrastructure, energy and transport
Anna Pia Maria Mirto (Istat) – Environment and territory; Agriculture; Other gender issues; WeMed's indicators: methodological aspects
Marco Ricci (Istat) – Population; Other social issues; Population and gender; WeMed's indicators: methodological aspects

Introduction by all authors on cover page

WeMed. Society, economy and environment in the Mediterranean, website: https://wemed.cnr.it

Table of Contents

Introduction

The 2024 edition of WeMed offers a detailed and multidimensional analysis of the social, economic, environmental, and gender dynamics of Mediterranean countries, reflecting the complexity and deep interconnections characterising this region. The Mediterranean, a crossroads of cultures, economies, and geopolitics, presents itself as a space of great challenges but also of opportunities for sustainable and inclusive development.

This publication, produced as part of the agreement between the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) and the Institute for Mediterranean Studies (CNR-ISMed), is organised into four main thematic areas: **Population and Society, Economy, Environment and Natural Resources, and Gender Inequalities**, offering an integrated and comparative perspective on the region. The approach taken in this collection of analyses integrates multiple fields, from demographic and labour market changes to health, education, macroeconomics, international relations, agriculture, environment, and infrastructure. Moreover, gender issues are addressed transversally in a dedicated section.

The first chapters focus on demographic dynamics, examining birth rates, fertility, and infant mortality, highlighting significant regional disparities. Population growth, which is stronger in North Africa and the Middle East than in the European Union, reflects different development models that pose significant challenges in terms of sustainability and social policies. The analysis of age structure and life expectancy also shows how Mediterranean countries are undergoing major demographic changes, with an ageing population in European nations and a prevalence of young people in extra-European countries.

Labour market trends are examined through activity and employment rates, which reveal significant inequalities, especially in terms of gender and youth access. In European Union countries, youth participation remains relatively stable, but gender gaps and job quality challenges persist. In North Africa and the Middle East, the low participation rates of women and young people highlight the urgent need for targeted socio-economic inclusion policies.

Social issues such as food security, health, and education provide insight into the social disparities across the Mediterranean. Food insecurity is more prevalent in North Africa and the Middle East, while non-communicable diseases such as diabetes are rising across the region, underscoring the need for interventions promoting healthier lifestyles. In terms of education, the European Union and the Western Balkans have achieved high schooling levels, while significant delays persist in parts of North Africa.

The macroeconomic analysis highlights the economic fragmentation of the region. The Mediterranean is dominated by the advanced economies of the European Union, but growth is faster in the emerging economies of North Africa and the Middle East. Disparities in GDP distribution and value-added reflect the differing development levels across nations, with Turkey and Israel emerging as key economic players in their respective areas.

In terms of international relations, trade flows and foreign direct investment reveal a strong reliance on the energy sector in North African countries, whereas the European Union demonstrates greater economic diversification. The analysis of trade balances and exports highlights the need for greater economic integration among the various macro-regions.

The section on environment and territory examines natural resource management, highlighting the growing water stress in extra-European countries and progress in environmental protection within the European Union. Urban populations continue to grow, placing further pressure on natural resources and infrastructure systems.

Agriculture, with its deep regional differences, is a key component of food security and environmental sustainability. While European countries have made progress in sustainable farming practices, North African countries face major challenges related to water scarcity and climate change. Fertiliser consumption and agricultural emissions remain a pressing issue for many nations.

The analysis of infrastructure and energy underscores the importance of maritime connectivity and renewable energy for sustainable economic development. While the European Union has more advanced infrastructure, North African and Middle Eastern nations are rapidly improving their logistics performance and clean energy integration.

The final chapters delve into gender inequalities, analysing women's participation in the labour market, political representation, and entrepreneurial opportunities. In North Africa and the Middle East, gender disparities are particularly pronounced, whereas European countries have made significant but incomplete progress. Indicators such as the Gender Inequality Index and the Gender Development Index provide a clear picture of the challenges that need to be addressed to ensure greater equality.

Gender issues are treated separately from other thematic areas to highlight their cross-cutting nature and crucial impact on socio-economic development in the Mediterranean. Gender inequalities are not just a matter of social justice but also directly influence key aspects such as the labour market, access to education, political participation, and health, making a dedicated focus necessary to fully understand their multilevel implications.

In the Mediterranean region, gender disparities are particularly relevant due to two main factors:

- Cultural and structural diversity across macro-regions: In the European Union, gender gaps are less pronounced thanks to more advanced policies, but significant disparities remain, for example, in leadership and economic participation. In North Africa and the Middle East, however, gender inequalities are more pronounced, influenced by cultural, social, and institutional barriers that strongly limit women's access to education, paid work, and political life.
- Impact on sustainable development: Women's empowerment is essential for economic growth, social cohesion, and sustainability. Greater female inclusion contributes to improving economic productivity, strengthening communities, and fostering more equitable and inclusive governance. Reducing gender inequalities is therefore crucial not only for fairness but also to promote overall progress in the region.

Addressing gender issues as a standalone topic allows for a deeper understanding of the link between women's rights and regional development, highlighting how female inclusion is a strategic priority for improving economic and social conditions across the Mediterranean.

Finally, all database indicators can be viewed through a Dashboard that represents historical series and territorial distributions of each indicator using graphs and maps. Additionally, the statistical database is accompanied by metadata documentation, ensuring transparency in methodological choices.

In conclusion, WeMed 2024 aims to provide, through its thematic analyses and a solid data framework, an analytical tool to understand regional dynamics and propose integrated policies that promote equitable, sustainable, and cooperative development in the Mediterranean region.

POPULATION

OVERVIEW

	INDICATORS	Population, total (in millions)	Population growth (annual %)	Population ages 0-14 (% of total population)	Population ages 65 and above (% of total population)	Age dependency ratio, old (% of working-age population)	Birth rate, crude (per 1,000 people)	Fertility rate, total (births per woman)	Life expectancy at birth, total (years)	Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births)
	Year	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022	2023	2022	2021
EUROPEAN UNION	Portugal	10,5	1,1	13,0	23,3	36,6	8,0	1,37	81,6	2,7
	Spain	48,4	1,2	13,5	20,7	31,5	6,9	1,29	83,1	2,6
	France	68,2	0,3	17,0	22,0	36,1	10,6	1,79	82,2	3,3
	Italy	59,0	0,0	12,4	24,0	37,8	6,7	1,20	82,6	2,6
	Slovenia	2,1	0,4	15,0	21,4	33,7	8,3	1,63	81,3	1,9
	Croatia	3,9	-0,1	14,0	22,7	36,0	8,8	1,45	77,6	3,9
	Greece	10,4	-0,6	13,6	23,1	36,6	7,3	1,38	80,6	3,4
	Malta	0,6	4,1	13,2	19,6	29,1	8,1	1,22	82,7	5
	Cyprus	1,3	0,7	15,8	15,2	22,0	10,0	1,31	81,9	2,7
WESTERN BALCANS	Serbia	6,6	-0,7	14,6	20,5	31,5	9,3	1,53	75,5	4,6
	Kosovo	1,8	-0,7	20,6	10,5	15,3	11,1	1,51	79,5	6,2
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	3,2	-0,7	14,7	18,7	28,0	8,3	1,34	75,3	5,3
	Montenegro	0,6	-0,2	17,9	16,9	26,0	11,4	1,67	76,2	2,4
	North Macedonia	1,8	-1,1	15,9	15,1	21,9	9,9	1,38	74,4	4,6
	Albania	2,7	-1,1	16,0	17,1	25,6	10,1	1,37	76,8	8,4
MIDDLE EAST	Turkiye	85,3	0,4	23,0	8,9	13,1	14,5	1,86	78,5	8,6
	Syrian Arab Republic	23,2	4,9	29,7	4,7	7,2	20,5	2,67	72,3	18,1
	Lebanon	5,4	-2,5	27,3	10,3	16,5	14,6	2,06	74,4	14,1
	Jordan	11,3	0,5	31,5	4,0	6,2	21,6	2,74	74,2	12,6
	Israel	9,8	2,1	27,9	12,2	20,3	19,0	2,92	82,7	2,8
	West Bank and Gaza	5,2	2,4	38,4	3,6	6,2	27,7	3,38	73,4	13,8
NORTH AFRICA	Egypt, Arab Rep.	112,7	1,5	32,6	4,9	7,9	22,1	2,84	70,2	16
	Libya	6,9	1,1	27,7	5,0	7,4	17,3	2,35	72,2	9,2
	Tunisia	12,5	0,8	24,7	9,3	14,1	15,6	2,04	74,3	10,6
	Algeria	45,6	1,6	30,4	6,6	10,5	20,6	2,77	77,1	19,2
	Morocco	37,8	1,0	26,3	8,0	12,2	17,2	2,27	75,0	15,4

Source: World Bank Development Indicators based on UN Population Division and national sources; UN Population Division; UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation; Istat.

SOME HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS

Population size and dynamics

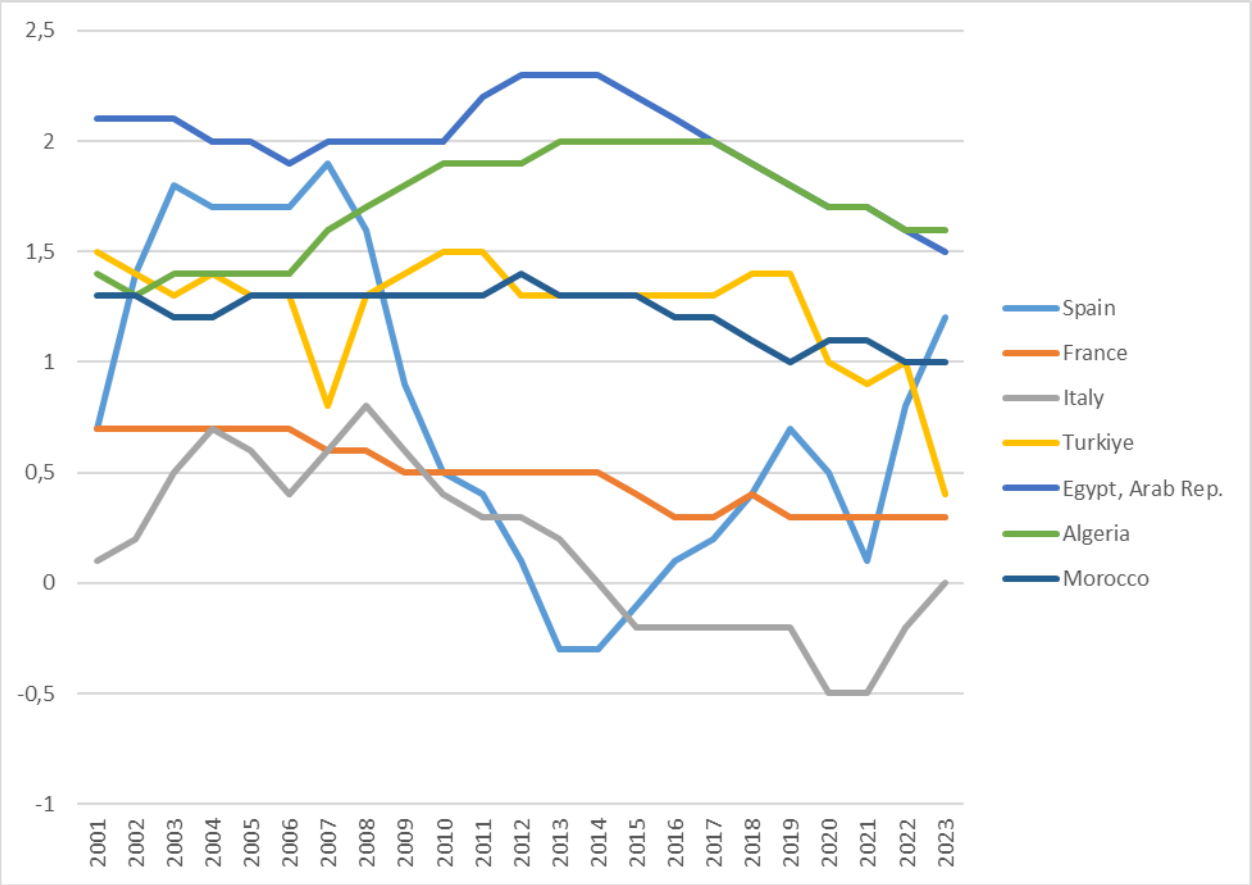
In 2023, the total population of the Mediterranean region is 576.6 million: 215.5 million in North Africa (37.4% of the total), 204.2 million in the European Union (35.4%), 140.2 million in the Middle East (24.3%), 16.8 million in the Western Balkans (2.9%).

Over the last two decades, this population has increased by more than a quarter (+26.4%) since 2001, with significant differences between and within geographic areas. North Africa presented the largest relative increase (+45.4%), with Egypt contributing more in both absolute and relative terms (+39.9 million, +54.7%). The overall dynamic of the Middle East was slightly lower (+39.1%), with the highest contribution of Turkey in absolute terms (+20.3 million) and Jordan, West Bank and Gaza and Israel in relative terms (+119.6%, +72.3% and +51.5% respectively). The demographic growth of the European Union's Mediterranean countries is very limited (+8.6%), with more significant dynamics in Spain and France (respectively +18.4% and +11.1%), a slightly positive balance in Italy (+3.5%) and a reduction in the number of inhabitants in Croatia and Greece. Finally, the Western Balkans area showed an overall demographic decrease between 2001 and 2023 (-12.9%), which affected Bosnia Herzegovina the most (-23.5%).

The demographic trend in terms of annual growth shows different types in the seven most populous countries of the Mediterranean area (Figure 1). Egypt was for a long time the country with the strongest growth rate, above + 2% per year, but since the middle of the last decade it has begun a reduction in the rate of increase, partly similar to that of Algeria. On intermediate levels of demographic growth, between +1%

and +1.5%, stand Turkey and Morocco, both with a gradual reduction in population growth and, in the case of Turkey, a sharp slowdown in 2023 (only +0.4% compared to the previous year). Among the European countries, Spain's demographic growth is concentrated in the first decade and then declines sharply, although with a recovery equal to + 1.2% in 2023; that of France has a more regular trend, constantly below one percentage point of annual growth and at more modest levels in recent years; finally, the Italian figure presents the least expansive dynamics, with eight consecutive years of demographic decline between 2015 and 2022, while 2023 is stationary.

Figure 1 - Annual population growth in the most populous countries of the Mediterranean region. Period 2001-2023 *(% compared to the previous year)*



Source: World Bank Development Indicators based on UN Population Division and national sources; Istat.

Demographic structure

In 2023, the population under the age of 14 accounts for one quarter or more of the total population in almost all Middle Eastern and North African countries, with the highest values in West Bank and Gaza (38.4%), Egypt (32.6%) and Jordan (31.5%). In the European Union countries, on the other hand, this indicator shows a maximum value for France of 17%, and a minimum for Italy (12.4%). The Western Balkans area has slightly higher shares of the under-14 population than the EU area, with a maximum value for Kosovo (20.6%).

Vice versa, for the elderly population aged 65 and over the EU countries show the highest values, above 20%, except for Cyprus and Malta, and a maximum value for Italy (24%). Slightly lower is the share of the elderly in the population of the Western Balkans and much lower in the non-European countries, where only Israel and Lebanon have percentages of the elderly exceeding, albeit slightly, 10%.

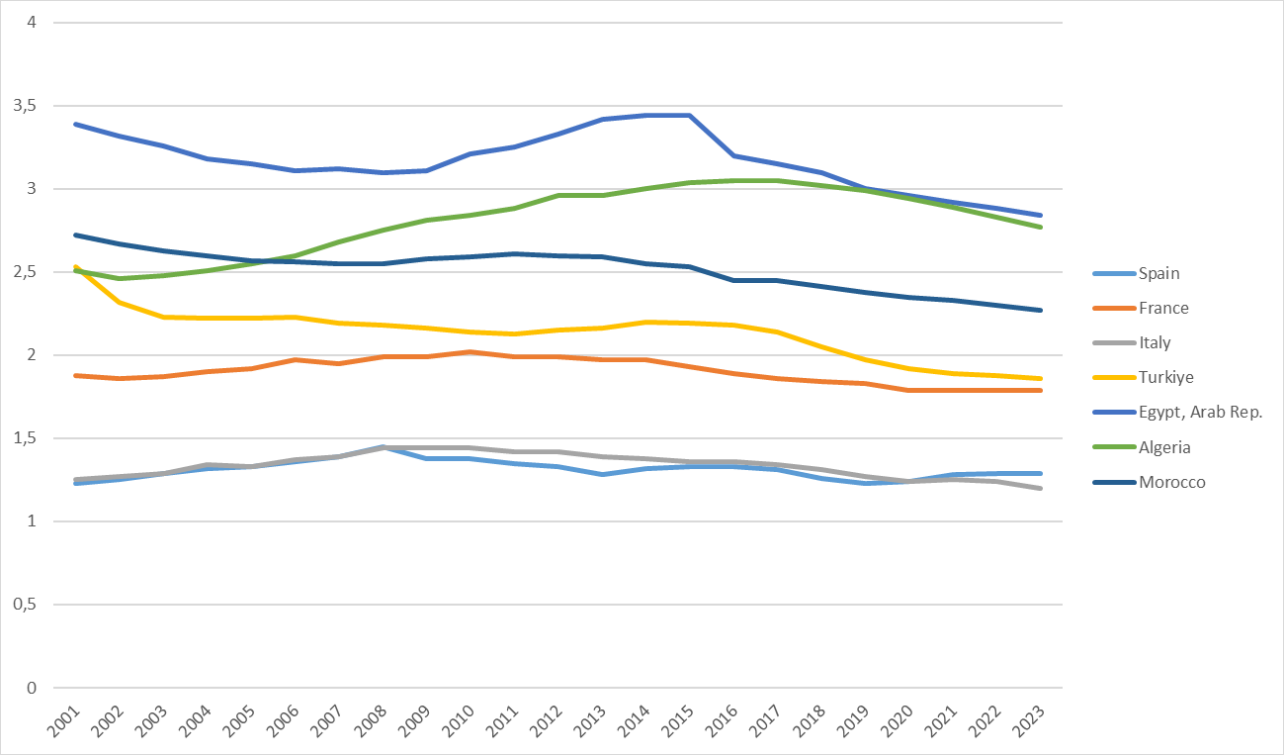
Birth rate and fertility

A higher proportion of young people in the Middle East and North Africa corresponds to higher birth and total fertility rates. For both indicators, the highest values in 2022 concern West Bank and Gaza, with 27.7 live births per thousand inhabitants and 3.38 children per woman. For the birth rate, Egypt and Jordan follow (22.1 and 21.6 per thousand respectively); for the total fertility rate Israel (2.92 children per woman) and Egypt (2.84).

At the other extreme, the birth rate is particularly low in EU countries, especially Italy, Spain and Greece, with rates of 6.7, 6.9 and 7.3 per thousand inhabitants respectively. The total fertility rate is lowest in Italy (1.20 children per woman), followed by Malta (1.22) and Spain (1.29).

Considering the most populous countries in the Mediterranean area, the evolution of fertility since the beginning of the century has followed different trajectories (Figure 2). In the European countries, the average number of children per woman reached higher values at the end of the first decade (Spain 1.45; Italy 1.44; France 2.03), then returned to the levels of the beginning of the period. For Egypt, Morocco and Turkey, between the extremes of the 2001-2023 period, this indicator shows a reduction of several decimal points, which is particularly evident in the most recent years; in the case of Turkey, this has led in 2023 to fertility levels now close to those in France.

Figure 2 - Total fertility rate in the most populous countries of the Mediterranean region. Period 2001-2023 *(average no. of children per woman)*



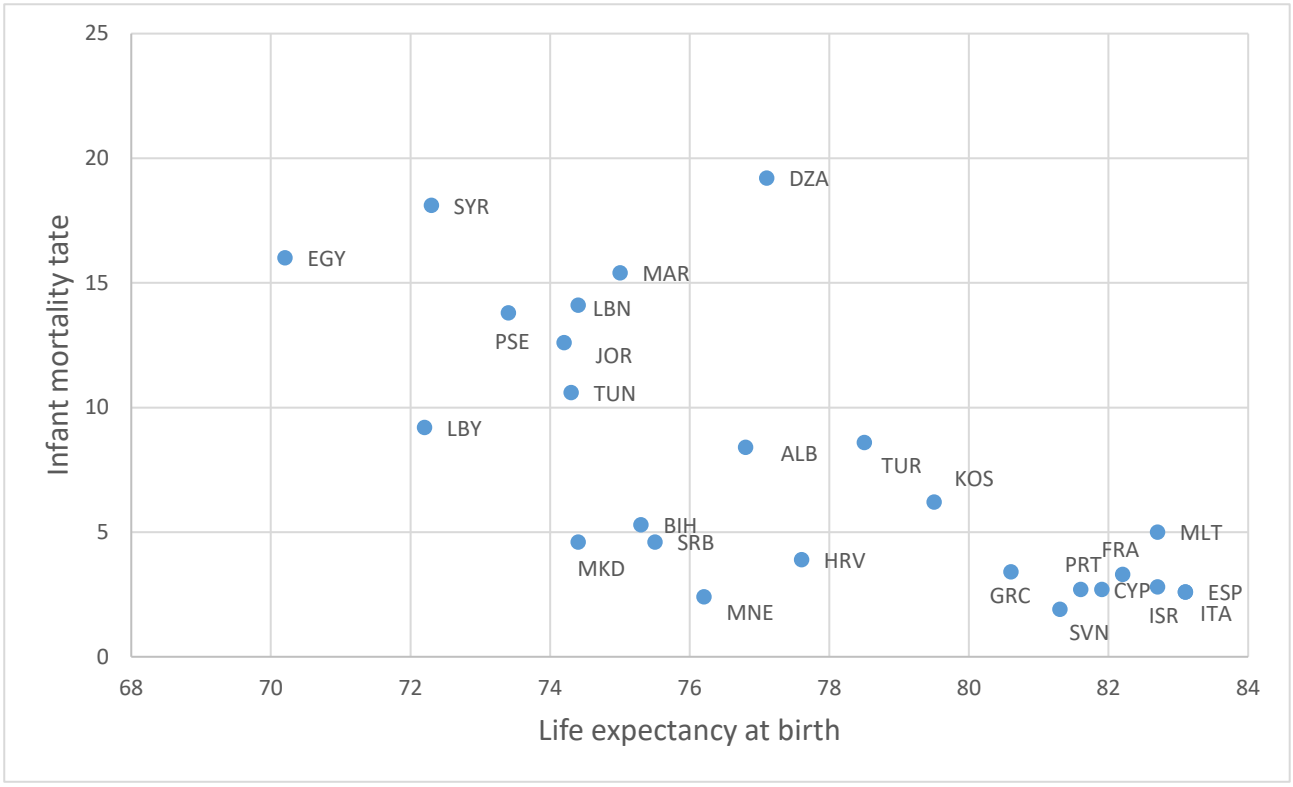
Source: UN Population Division; Istat.

Life expectancy and infant mortality

Mortality and life expectancy indicators show in the most recent data three distinct typologies in the Mediterranean area (Figure 3). Firstly, nine countries with a total life expectancy (male and female) above 80 years: these are eight EU countries (with the exception of Croatia), plus Israel. In all these countries, the

infant mortality rate is below 5 per thousand live births, and in several cases (Portugal, Spain, Italy, Slovenia, Cyprus and Israel) below 3 per thousand live births. The highest value for total life expectancy in 2022 is in Spain (83.1 years). Then there are several countries with a life expectancy below 80 years, accompanied by infant mortality below the 10 per thousand threshold: in addition to Croatia, all Western Balkan countries, Turkey, Tunisia and Libya. Finally, even higher values of infant mortality mark the other countries of the Middle East and North Africa, accompanied by a life expectancy at birth always lower (except in Algeria) than 75 years; among these countries, the most critical data for both indicators concern Egypt and Syria.

Figure 3 - Life expectancy at birth (M and F) and infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births). Years 2021 and 2022 (a)



(a) 2022 for life expectancy at birth, 2021 for infant mortality rate.

Source: World Bank Development Indicators based on UN Population Division and national sources; UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation; Istat.

LABOR MARKET

OVERVIEW

	INDICATORS	Labor force participation rate for ages 15-24, total (%)	Labor force participation rate, total (% of total population ages 15-64)	Employment to population ratio, ages 15-24, total (%)	Employment to population ratio, 15+, total (%)	Unemployment, total (% of total labor force)	Unemployment, youth total (% of total labor force ages 15-24)	Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)	Employment in industry (% of total employment)	Employment in services (% of total employment)
	Year	2023	2022	2023 (a)	2023 (b)	2023 (c)	2023 (d)	2022	2022	2022
EUROPEAN UNION	Portugal	35,5	76,4	28,9	55,4	6,5	20,2	5,0	24,0	71,0
	Spain	32,9	74,1	23,6	50,6	12,1	28,7	3,8	20,1	76,1
	France	42,8	74,3	36,1	52,3	7,3	17,1	2,6	19,3	78,2
	Italy	26,4	65,5	20,4	46,1	7,7	22,7	3,8	26,9	69,3
	Slovenia	36,3	76,6	33,2	56,5	3,6	9,9	4,3	30,2	65,5
	Croatia	30,5	69,3	24,6	49,3	6,1	19,2	5,9	28,4	65,7
	Greece	24,8	68,7	18,6	46,3	11,0	26,6	11,2	15,6	73,3
	Malta	54,2	79,8	49,6	63,6	3,1	9,3	0,8	17,2	82,0
	Cyprus	43,6	76,8	36,2	61,1	6,0	17,5	2,4	17,2	80,5
WESTERN BALKANS	Serbia	31,9	73,2	25,0	54,3	8,7	24,3	13,6	29,1	57,4
	Kosovo	..	..	..	..	12,1	21,3	..	..	..
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	28,8	61,6	20,2	44,1	10,4	26,5	16,9	33,5	49,6
	Montenegro	31,4	68,2	22,9	48,3	15,3	27,9	7,2	18,5	74,4
	North Macedonia	28,3	63,8	20,6	45,7	13,1	28,6	9,7	30,4	59,9
	Albania	33,8	71,4	24,7	53,5	11,6	28,2	34,9	21,4	43,7
MIDDLE EAST	Turkey	44,1	58,3	36,2	48,2	9,4	17,6	16,7	27,7	55,6
	Syrian Arab Republic	23,7	40,3	15,8	33,4	13,5	33,5	15,5	22,7	61,8
	Lebanon	35,6	50,4	27,1	40,2	11,6	23,7	3,5	20,4	76,0
	Jordan	26,0	41,4	15,2	31,9	17,9	40,8	3,2	18,2	78,6
	Israel	47,6	73,3	44,8	62,6	3,4	6,0	0,8	15,7	83,5
	West Bank and Gaza	..	..	19,7	34,0	24,4	36,0	6,2	32,6	61,2
NORTH AFRICA	Egypt, Arab republic	24,0	46,5	20,3	41,3	7,3	19,0	18,7	28,4	53,0
	Libya	17,1	50,9	8,8	39,2	18,7	49,4	9,2	22,8	68,0
	Tunisia	28,5	52,3	17,0	39,0	15,1	37,5	14,0	33,4	52,6
	Algeria	23,3	45,6	16,0	37,1	11,8	30,8	9,7	30,8	59,4
	Morocco	26,5	47,7	20,3	39,7	9,1	22,6	30,8	24,0	45,3

(...) Data not available

(a) 2022 West Bank and Gaza.
(b) 2022 West Bank and Gaza.
(c) 2022 Kosovo and West Bank and Gaza.
(d) 2022 Kosovo and West Bank and Gaza.

Source: International Labour Organization (ILO) and Istat.

SOME HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS

The analysis of the labour market in the Mediterranean countries reveals a complex structure, influenced by economic, demographic and cultural variables. The study of activity and employment rates, together with the sectoral distribution of employment, provides an overview of the challenges and opportunities that characterise this area. Moreover, promoting long-term sustainable socio-economic recovery and job creation in the Southern Neighbourhood is a key shared priority and the cornerstone of the new agenda for the Mediterranean endorsed by the European Commission.

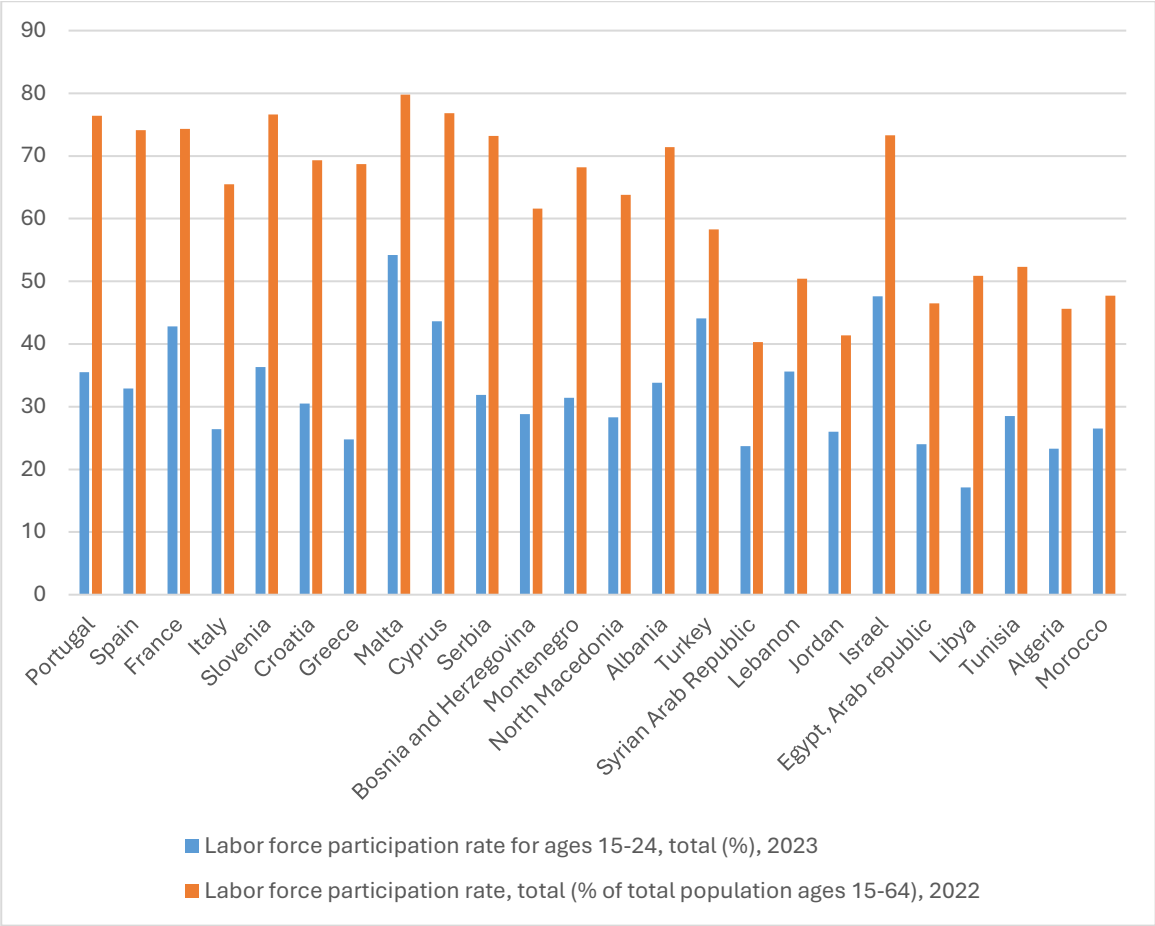
Activity and employment rates

In 2023, regional disparities in activity rates among Mediterranean countries are evident. In the European Union, Malta stands out with a youth activity rate (15-24 years) of 54.2%, followed by Cyprus and France, while Greece and Italy show lower values, at 24.8% and 26.4% respectively. In the Western Balkans, Serbia and Albania record moderate rates (32-34%), while in the Middle East, Israel records 47.6%, which is significantly higher than Syria and Jordan. In North Africa, rates are low overall, with Tunisia at 28.5%, Algeria at 23.3% and Libya at 17.1%.

Considering the entire working age group (15-64 years) in 2022 Malta and Slovenia record the highest values, 79.8% and 76.6% respectively, reflecting the stability of the labour market for adults of working age. At 65.5

per cent, Italy records the lowest value among the Mediterranean European countries. In the Balkans, Serbia maintains an activity rate of 73.2%, while Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia are below 65%. Among Middle Eastern countries, Israel shows high participation (73.3%), while Lebanon and Jordan have significantly lower values of 50.4% and 41.4%, respectively. In North Africa, the activity rates of the working-age population are generally low, with Algeria and Libya recording 45.6% and 50.9% respectively, and only Tunisia exceeding 52%, signalling a persistent difficulty for labour market inclusion. These data highlight the need for targeted interventions to improve labour force integration, especially among young people and in areas with particularly low activity rates, and considering that the low rates depend significantly on the very limited labour market participation of women.

Figure 1 - Activity rate. Years 2022-2023 *(%)*



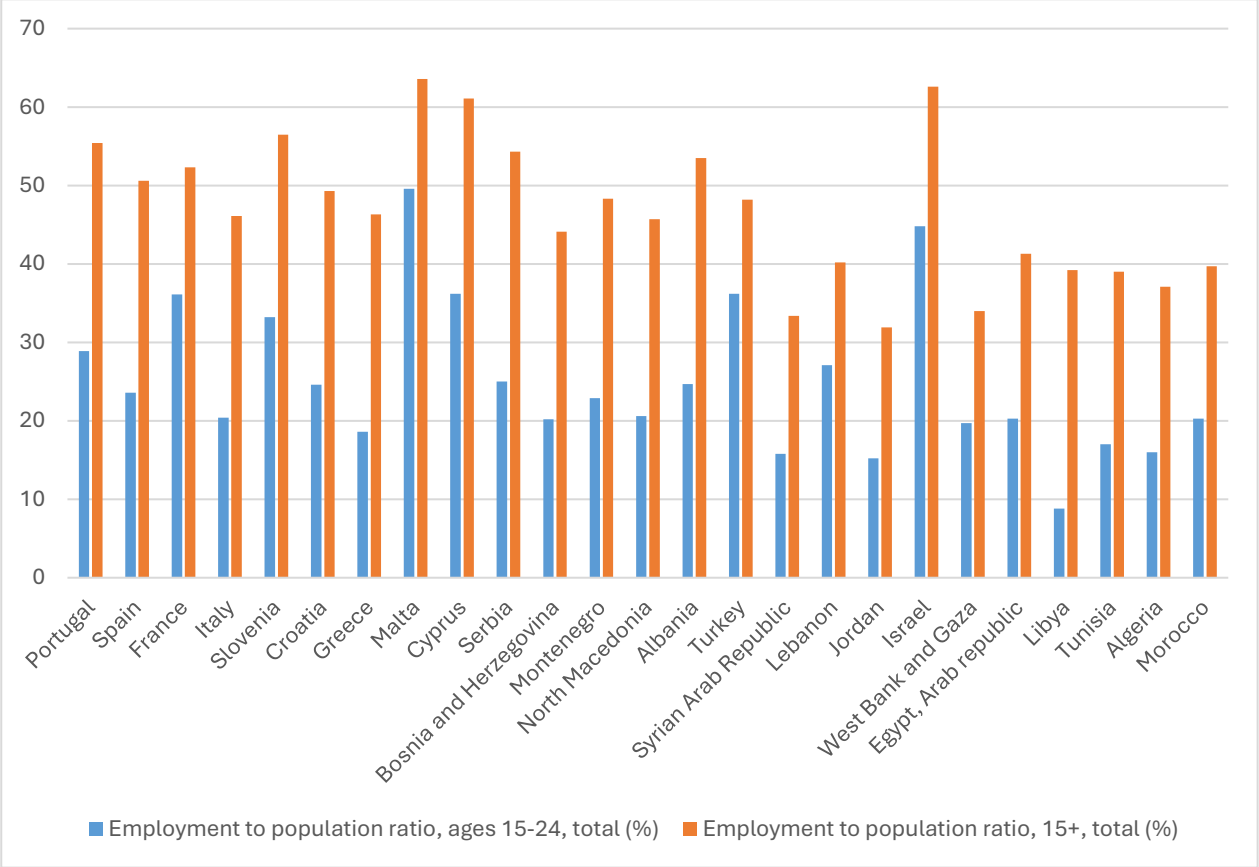
Source: International Labour Organization (ILO) and Istat.

With regard to the employment rate among young people (15-24 years), Malta has the highest rate (49.6%) in 2023, followed by Israel (44.8%) and Turkey (36.2%), highlighting a greater integration of young people into the labour market than other countries. In contrast, Libya (8.8 per cent) and Jordan (15.2 per cent) show extremely low youth employment rates, signalling significant difficulties for young people to access employment in these contexts.

For the overall population (15 years and over), Malta continues to stand out with the highest employment rate (63.6 per cent), followed by Cyprus (61.1 per cent) and Israel (62.6 per cent), values that indicate a relatively stable and active labour market. In contrast, countries such as Syria (33.4%) and Jordan (31.9%) show very low overall employment levels, reflecting substantial economic challenges. In North Africa, employment rates remain particularly low: Algeria, Tunisia and Libya do not exceed 40 per cent, highlighting an urgent need for action to promote labour inclusion in these areas.

The analysis shows notable heterogeneity in participation and employment in the Mediterranean countries. In Europe, activity and employment rates are high among adults, but youth participation remains a challenge. In the Western Balkans, lower rates require interventions to stimulate the economy and support youth employment. In the Middle East, Israel emerges for high participation rates, while other countries have limited employment opportunities. Finally, in North Africa, low youth participation and employment rates indicate an urgent need to expand employment opportunities.

Figure 2 - Employment rate. Year 2023 *(%)*



Source: International Labour Organization (ILO) and Istat.

Unemployment rate

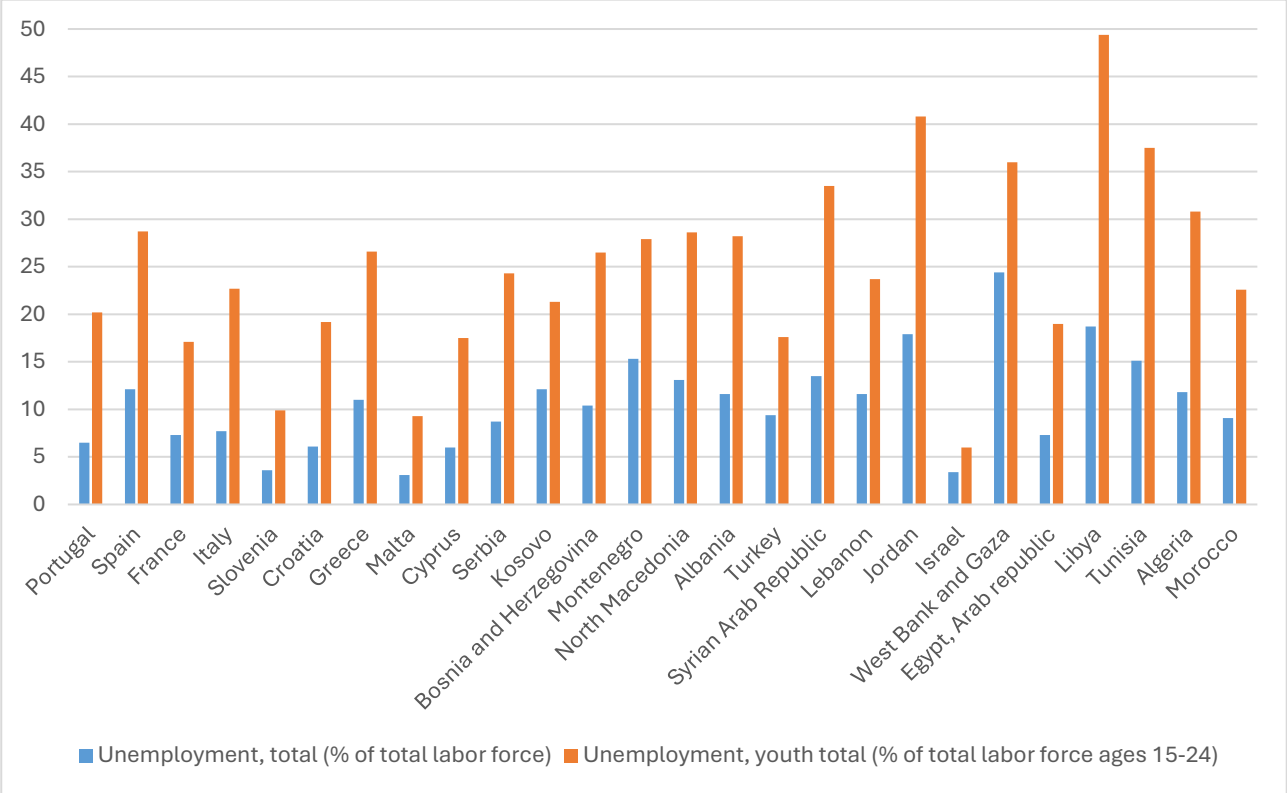
Youth unemployment is a crucial issue in Mediterranean countries. It is particularly high in North African countries and in some European countries, such as Spain and Italy. The lack of job opportunities for young people is an issue of concern, as it fuels social instability and drives many to seek opportunities abroad.

Analysing in particular the data on unemployment rates for 2023, in the youth group (15-24 years old) unemployment rates are particularly high in Libya (49.4%), Jordan (40.8%) and Tunisia (37.5%), but Palestine and Algeria also register high rates, at 36% and 30.8% respectively. In the Middle East, Israel represents a case apart for the area, recording a rate of 6%. In Europe, Spain (28.7 per cent) and Italy (22.7 per cent) have the highest youth unemployment rates, while Malta records 9.3 per cent.

Considering the overall population, Malta and Israel have the lowest unemployment rates in the entire Mediterranean area, at 3.1% and 3.4% respectively, reflecting relatively stable economies. By contrast, Middle Eastern and North African countries show high rates: unemployment in Libya reaches 18.7%, followed by Palestine (24.4%) and Jordan (17.9%). In the Balkans, Montenegro and North Macedonia have overall

unemployment rates of 15.3% and 13.1%, while among the European countries bordering the Mediterranean, Spain has the highest value at 12.1%.

Figure 3 - Unemployment rates in ages 15-24 and 15 years and over. Year 2023 *(%)*



Source: International Labour Organization (ILO) and Istat.

Sectoral Distribution of Employment

In the less industrialised countries, agriculture still accounts for an important share of employment, particularly in rural areas, while its incidence is declining in the more advanced countries of the region. The service sector, on the other hand, is booming, thanks mainly to tourism and trade, which play a central role in the Mediterranean economy.

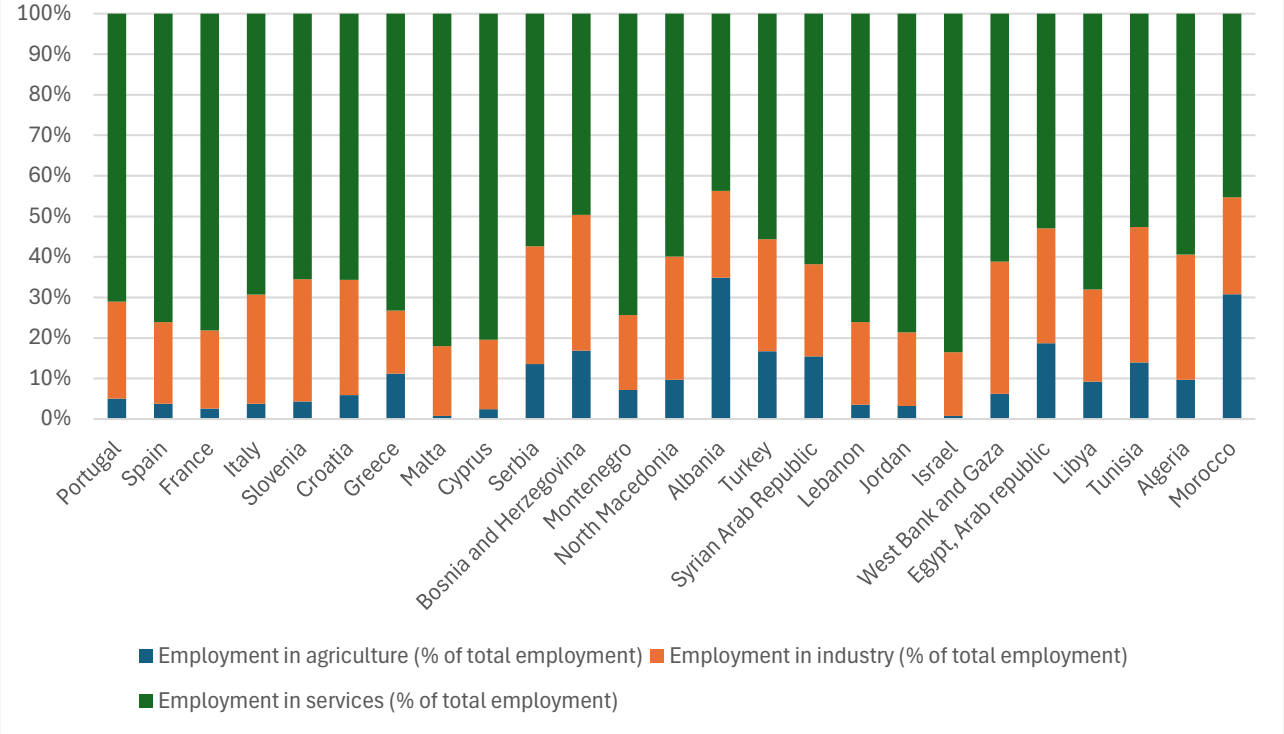
The 2022 data reveal a varied employment distribution in the three sectors in the Mediterranean countries. In the agricultural sector, Albania (34.9 per cent) and Morocco (30.8 per cent) record the highest percentages of employment, indicating a strong dependence on agriculture. In contrast, more advanced nations such as France and Malta have minimal shares of agricultural employment, 2.6% and 0.8% respectively, reflecting a lower relevance of this sector in their labour markets.

As regards the industrial sector, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia stand out as having the highest levels, with 33.5% and 30.2% of total employment respectively, highlighting a significant manufacturing and industrial base. In Italy, industry employs 26.9% of the workforce, while in countries such as France and Jordan, industry plays a less significant role, with a share of less than 20%.

The service sector dominates in most European and Middle Eastern countries. Malta (82%), Israel (83.5%) and France (78.2%) record the highest percentages, indicators of advanced, service-oriented economies typical of high-income countries. In North African countries and the Balkans, the service sector is less dominant but still remains significant, as shown by the figures for Algeria (59.4%) and Tunisia (52.6%).

In conclusion, the European and Middle Eastern Mediterranean countries tend to focus more on services, while in the Balkan and North African countries agriculture and industry continue to play a significant role in the employment structure, reflecting the different economic and social characteristics of the region.

Figure 4 - Distribution of employment in sectors by macro-region. Year 2022 (% total employment)



OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES

OVERVIEW

	INDICATORS	Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population (%)	Diabetes prevalence (% of population ages 20 to 79)	Prevalence of current tobacco use (% of adults)	Gross intake ratio to the last grade of lower secondary general education, both sexes (%)	Individuals using the Internet (% of population)	Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	Human Development Index (min=0, max=1)	Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (min=0, max=1)
	Year	2021	2021	2022	2021	2022	2022 (a)	2022	2022
EUROPEAN UNION	Portugal	12,4	9,1	25,6	100,6	84,5	43,5	0,87	0,77
	Spain	8,0	10,3	28,4	94,7	94,5	36,0	0,91	0,80
	France	6,6	5,3	34,6	99,8	85,3	49,4	0,91	0,82
	Italy	5,7	6,4	22,4	100,3	85,1	31,5	0,91	0,80
	Slovenia	7,0	5,8	20,1	95,7	88,9	31,9	0,93	0,88
	Croatia	9,7	4,8	37,0	97,4	82,1	27,0	0,88	0,82
	Greece	6,3	6,4	32,8	95,2	83,2	43,0	0,89	0,80
	Malta	7,2	8,0	24,7	99,8	91,5	43,0	0,92	0,84
	Cyprus		8,6	35,6	104,0	89,6	38,6	0,91	0,83
WESTERN BALCANS	Serbia	14,8	9,1	39,5	97,3	83,5	29,3	0,81	0,74
	Kosovo	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	13,4	9,1	36,2	88,3	83,4	27,1	0,78	0,67
	Montenegro	12,9	9,1	32,0	95,8	88,2	31,3	0,84	0,76
	North Macedonia	24,0	6,1	..	86,8	84,2	24,6	0,77	0,68
	Albania	30,2	10,2	21,9	97,6	82,6	20,6	0,79	0,69
MIDDLE EAST	Turkiye	..	14,5	30,5	93,4	86,0	22,3	0,86	0,72
	Syrian Arab Republic	..	14,9	..	44,1	..	7,3	0,56	..
	Lebanon	36,5	8,0	34,3	..	90,1	7,6	0,72	..
	Jordan	..	15,4	35,6	67,6	90,5	7,1	0,74	0,62
	Israel	13,2	8,5	20,4	93,7	92,1	29,4	0,92	0,81
	West Bank and Gaza	28,1	..	..	90,7	88,6	..	0,72	0,59
NORTH AFRICA	Egypt, Arab Rep.	28,5	20,9	24,7	86,1	72,2	10,8	0,73	0,56
	Libya	39,8	8,7	..		88,4	4,8	0,75	..
	Tunisia	28,5	9,6	20,5	80,5	73,8	13,7	0,73	0,57
	Algeria	19,4	7,1	21,2	84,5	71,2	10,5	0,75	0,59
	Morocco	..	9,1	13,0	73,9	90,7	6,4	0,70	0,51

Source: FAO, International Diabetes Federation, WHO, UNESCO, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Bank Development Indicators based on ITU data, United Nations Development Programme.

SOME HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS

The availability of indicators with sufficient timeliness and territorial coverage for the entire Mediterranean region is not such as to allow an articulate reading of some important social themes, but at least it allows an exploration of several relevant matters.

Health

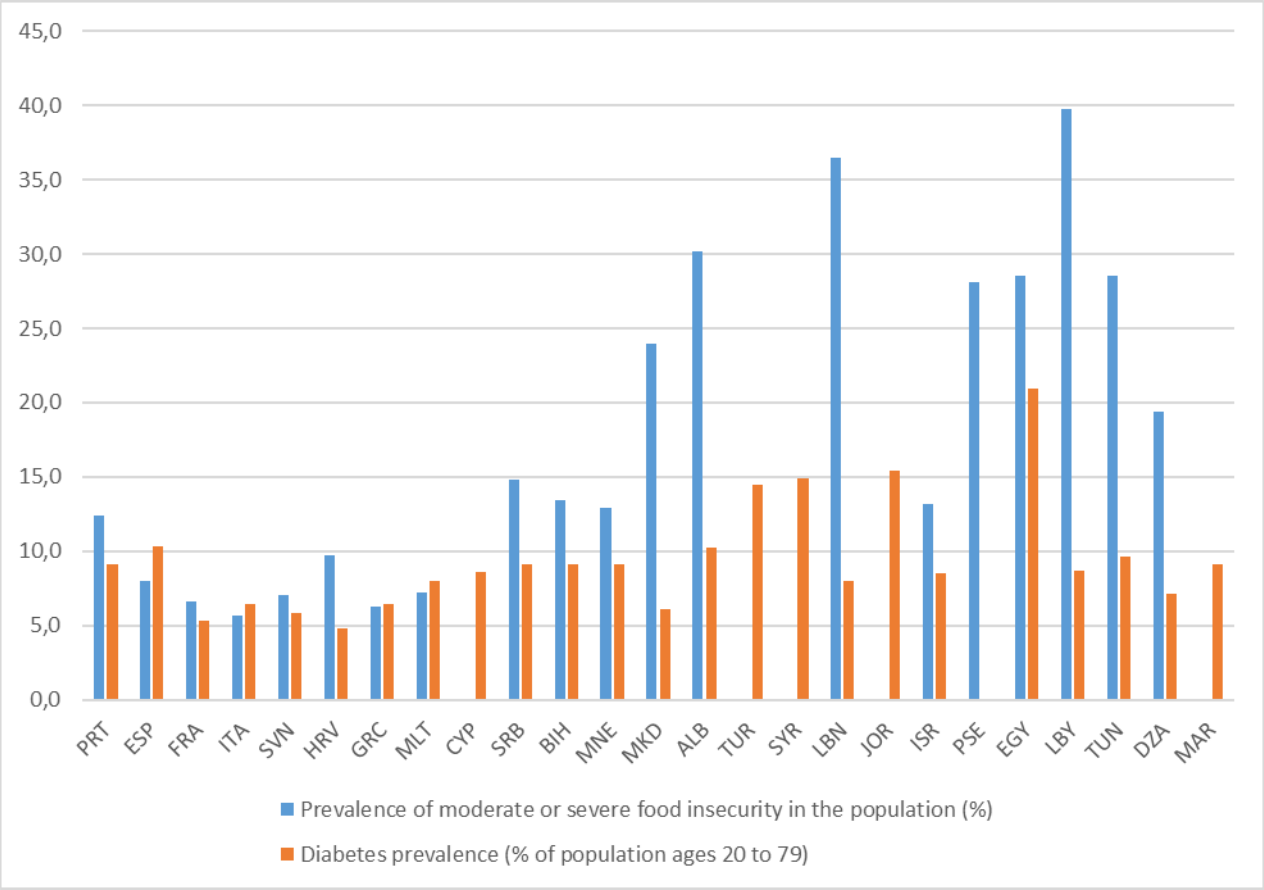
Among the significant health-related phenomena, the issue of food insecurity and that of the prevalence of diabetes are linked - albeit with very different connotations - to the issues of the population's living conditions. Figure 1 shows how the incidence of the respective indicators differs within the Mediterranean area.

The percentage of the population in moderate or severe food insecurity in 2021 shows critical or even very critical values in some non-European Mediterranean countries. This is especially the case in Libya (39.8%) and Lebanon (36.5%), but also in Egypt, Tunisia and Palestine more than a quarter of the population is in this condition (without taking into account the various countries with missing data). Moreover, this is not only a problem in the Middle East and North Africa: in the Western Balkans, the percentages in Albania (30.2%) and North Macedonia (24%) are at similar levels. The problem is much less widespread in the other Balkan countries (less than 15%) and even less so in the EU countries, which, with the exception of Portugal, have

an incidence of the phenomenon of less than 10%, with the most favourable values in Italy (5.7%), Greece (6.3%) and France (6.6%).

With regard to diabetes, the incidence of this pathology in the population aged 20-79 years also shows the highest values in some Middle Eastern and Mediterranean African countries: in order, Egypt (20.9%), Jordan (15.4%), Syria (14.9%) and Turkey (14.5%). Apart from these cases, it can be observed that in all the macro-regions of the Mediterranean area, variability is manifested at lower levels, generally below an incidence of around 10%. In fact, the highest and lowest values are 10.3% for Spain and 4.8% for Croatia in the European Union, 10.2% for Albania and 6.1% for North Macedonia in the Western Balkans; in the Middle East and North Africa, all but the most critical countries show values between 7 and 10%.

Figure 1 - Moderate or severe food insecurity in the population (%) and diabetes (% of population aged 20-79). Year 2021



Source: FAO, International Diabetes Federation.

Health issues also depend on the population's lifestyles, such as smoking habits. Tobacco consumption in the population aged 15 years and over shows the highest prevalence in 2022 in some countries of the former Yugoslavia: in order, Serbia (39.5%), Croatia (37%) and Bosnia-Herzegovina (36.2%). Proportions of smokers in the adult population exceeding one third also concern Cyprus and France in the European Union, and Lebanon and Jordan in the Middle East. On the other hand, in all macro-regions there are countries where the smoking habit is much more limited (percentages around 20% in the case of Slovenia, Italy, Albania, Israel, Tunisia and Algeria), while the lowest value is reported for Morocco (13%). In this regard, it can be considered that tobacco consumption by the population is affected not only by the prevention policies adopted in the different countries, but also by complex socio-cultural factors linked also to gender differences (see chapter ‘Gender comparisons/Other gender issues’).

Schooling and digitalisation

The percentage of children admitted to the last grade of lower secondary education, to be considered as a proxy measure of the attainment of a basic level of schooling, highlights some significant differences between the Mediterranean macro-regions. In fact, this percentage - calculated with respect to the population at the age envisaged for entry into that grade (generally 14 years old) - is at least 95 per cent in all the Mediterranean countries of the European Union, and this threshold is also exceeded in the Western Balkans, as far as Serbia, Montenegro and Albania are concerned. In the Middle East, Turkey, Israel and West Bank and Gaza reach an incidence of more than 90%, while in North Africa the highest value of basic schooling, that of Egypt, is 86.1%. This indicator suggests that the countries lagging furthest behind in the process of schooling the new generations are Syria (44.1%), Jordan (67.6%) and Morocco (73.9%).

The gaps between the macro-regions that emerge on the subject of schooling seem less marked, on the other hand, with regard to the diffusion of Internet use by the population, although there are clear gaps with regard to digital infrastructures and broadband access.

The percentage of people using the Internet is fairly homogeneous between and within macro-regions, although some North African countries lag behind. In the countries of the European Union it ranges from the highest value in Spain (94.5%) to the lowest in Croatia (82.1%); in the Western Balkans from 88.2% in Montenegro to 82.6% in Albania; in the Middle East from the highest in Israel (92.1%) to the lowest in Turkey (86%); finally, in North Africa Morocco and Libya are around 90%, while the other three countries lag significantly behind.

The degree of development of digital infrastructures obviously conditions the diffusion of fixed broadband subscriptions in the population. Digital infrastructure gaps clearly emerge between the EU and the other Mediterranean macro-regions. In 2022 the highest broadband accessibility is in France (49.4% of subscriptions relative to the population) and Portugal (43.5%); the lowest values in the EU Mediterranean countries are around 30% and concern Croatia (27%), Italy (31.5%) and Slovenia (31.9%). In the other macro-regions, the highest broadband development corresponds to percentages of 20-30%, for all Western Balkan countries and also for Israel and Turkey. In the remaining Middle Eastern and North African countries, on the other hand, the lag in broadband deployment is significant, with the rate of subscriptions reaching a maximum of 13.7% in Tunisia.

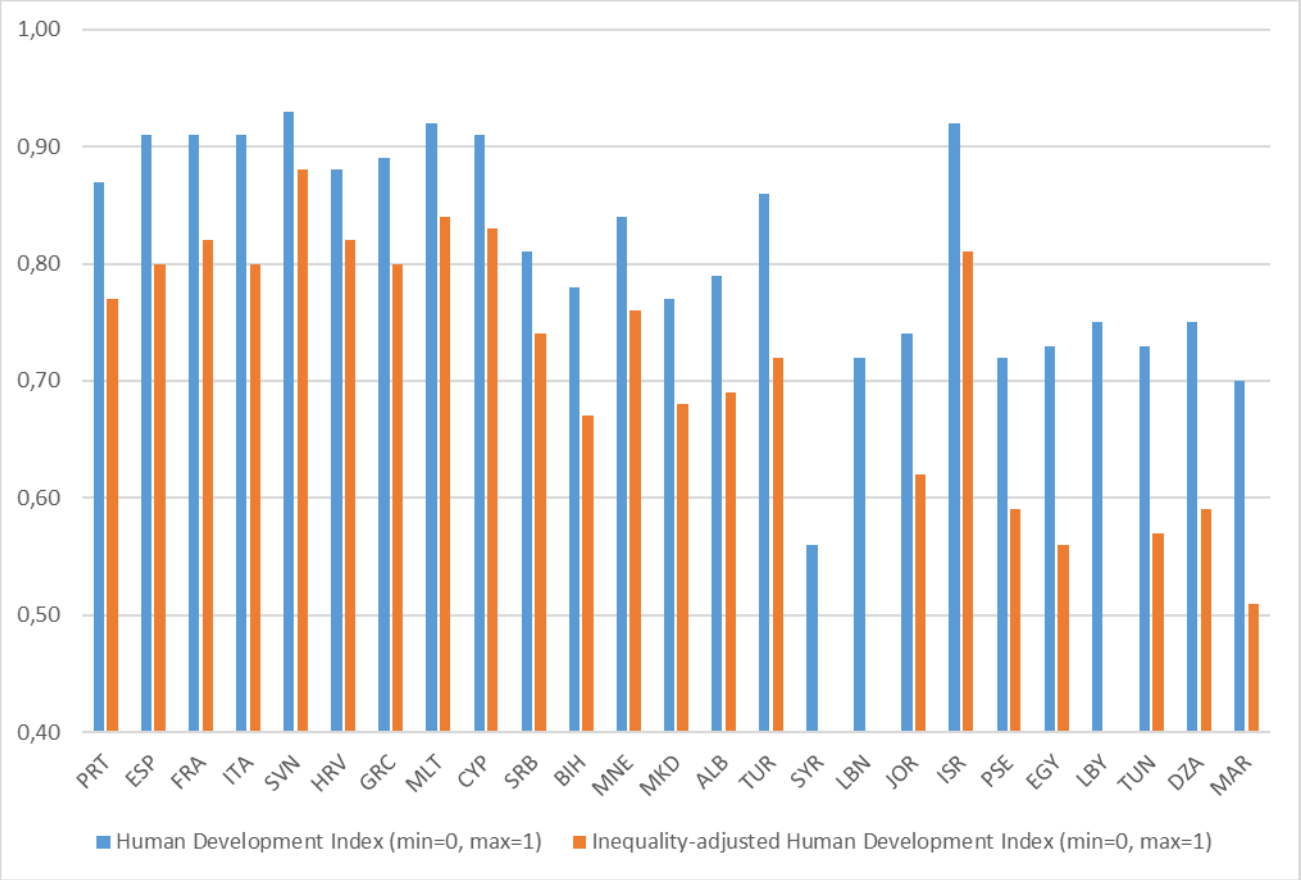
Human development

A widely known statistical measure summarising several dimensions of a country's level of socioeconomic development is the Human Development Index (HDI), adopted since 1993 by the UN to assess the quality of life of the population in all countries, with the explicit aim of shifting the focus of economic development from GDP to people-centred development policies (https://www.undp.org/). The index, calculated as the geometric mean of three basic indices related respectively to life expectancy, educational attainment and per capita income, has since given rise to several variants, which also consider information on equality and gender (see also chapter ‘Gender comparisons/Other gender issues’).

The latest update of the Human Development Index and the Inequality Adjusted Index returns a picture of clear segmentation between different levels achieved in the four macro-regions of the Mediterranean area, with some exceptions (Figure 2). The index exceeds the value of 0.90 in all EU countries except Portugal, Croatia and Greece where it nevertheless approaches this threshold. The highest level is reached by Slovenia (0.93) and Malta (0.92). Outside the EU, the only Mediterranean country with a similar level is Israel. In the Western Balkans, this indicator varies from the highest in Montenegro (0.84) to the lowest in North Macedonia (0.77), while in the Middle East, Turkey also comes out on top (0.86). In the remaining non-European countries, the index lies in the range of 0.70/0.75, with Syria (0.56) assigned a dramatic figure, evidently linked to the consequences of the war events of the previous years.

A measure derived from the previous indicator is the Inequality Adjusted Human Development Index, which takes into account inequalities within countries. It reproduces the same spatial profile as the Human Development Index, albeit with less advanced levels of progress. The gap between the two indices, measured in terms of the difference between their respective values, ranges from a minimum in Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia (0.05/0.07 points difference) to a maximum in the North African countries (more than 0.15 points difference).

Figure 2 - Human Development Index and Inequality Adjusted Human Development Index. Year 2022 *(min = 0; max =1)*



Source: United Nations Development Programme.

The dynamics of the Human Development Index is of great relevance in order to grasp the trends of narrowing gaps between countries characterised by different levels of development. From this point of view, it is interesting to highlight that in the last two decades, the most consistent advances in the index with respect to 2001 have been achieved in Turkey, with an increase in value of + 0.18 points, as well as in Morocco (+ 0.16), Malta (+ 0.13) and Bosnia-Herzegovina (+ 0.12), while the only country that has experienced a decrease is Syria (- 0.04).

MACROECONOMICS AND PUBLIC FINANCE

OVERVIEW

	INDICATORS	GDP (US$ billion, current values)	GDP growth (annual %)	GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international $)	Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (% of total value added)	Industry (including construction), value added (% of total value added)	Services, value added (% of total value added)	Medium and high-tech manufacturing value added (% manufacturing value added)
	Year	2023 (a)	2023 (a)	2023 (a)	2023 (b)	2023 (b)	2023 (b)	2021 (c)
EUROPEAN UNION	Portugal	287,1	2,3	41.709,6	5,9	51,7	192,3	27,7
	Spain	1.580,7	2,5	46.356,6	37,0	319,9	1.083,2	39,8
	France	3.030,9	0,7	55.213,7	58,3	565,3	2.098,6	51,7
	Italy	2.254,9	0,9	52.699,9	43,7	521,5	1.463,9	43,5
	Slovenia	68,2	1,6	48.109,1	1,3	19,9	39,4	37,3
	Croatia	82,7	3,1	41.343,5	2,5	15,5	50,6	32,7
	Greece	238,2	2,0	36.267,7	9,0	37,3	161,1	26,5
	Malta	21,0	5,6	57.230,1	0,2	2,5	16,7	29,0
	Cyprus	32,2	2,5	50.578,4	0,5	3,9	23,8	29,8
WESTERN BALKANS	Serbia	75,2	2,5	24.510,8	3,9	19,8	38,5	25,4
	Kosovo	10,4	3,3	13.547,0	0,8	2,7	4,8	..
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	27,1	1,7	19.860,3	1,2	6,3	15,2	18,6
	Montenegro	7,4	6,0	27.776,4	0,4	0,9	4,6	14,9
	North Macedonia	14,8	1,0	23.423,9	1,0	3,2	8,6	33,2
	Albania	23,0	3,4	18.059,9	4,2	4,9	11,0	6,3
MIDDLE EAST	Turkiye	1.108,0	4,5	34.414,2	68,5	313,1	598,9	34,3
	Syrian Arab Republic	9,0	1,3	2.914,5	2,5	2,6	3,9	21,5
	Lebanon	17,9	-0,2	12.293,3	0,2	0,4	8,6	19,9
	Jordan	50,8	2,6	9.421,0	2,4	12,2	30,8	19,9
	Israel	509,9	2,0	48.277,6	6,2	83,9	353,9	46,9
	West Bank and Gaza	17,4	-5,5	5.307,6	1,1	3,3	11,2	7,2
NORTH AFRICA	Egypt, Arab Rep.	395,9	3,8	16.960,6	42,0	129,6	204,5	22,7
	Libya	50,5	-1,7	17.703,9	0,8	42,9	23,5	16,1
	Tunisia	48,5	0,4	12.332,1	4,6	11,4	30,1	27,6
	Algeria	239,9	4,1	15.347,5	31,6	91,2	108,1	2,7
	Morocco	141,1	3,2	8.782,3	16,9	33,5	76,0	41,2

(a) 2021 Syrian Arab Republic
(b) 2012 Syrian Arab Republic and Israel, 2022 West Bank and Gaza
(..) not available

Sources: *World Bank, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)*

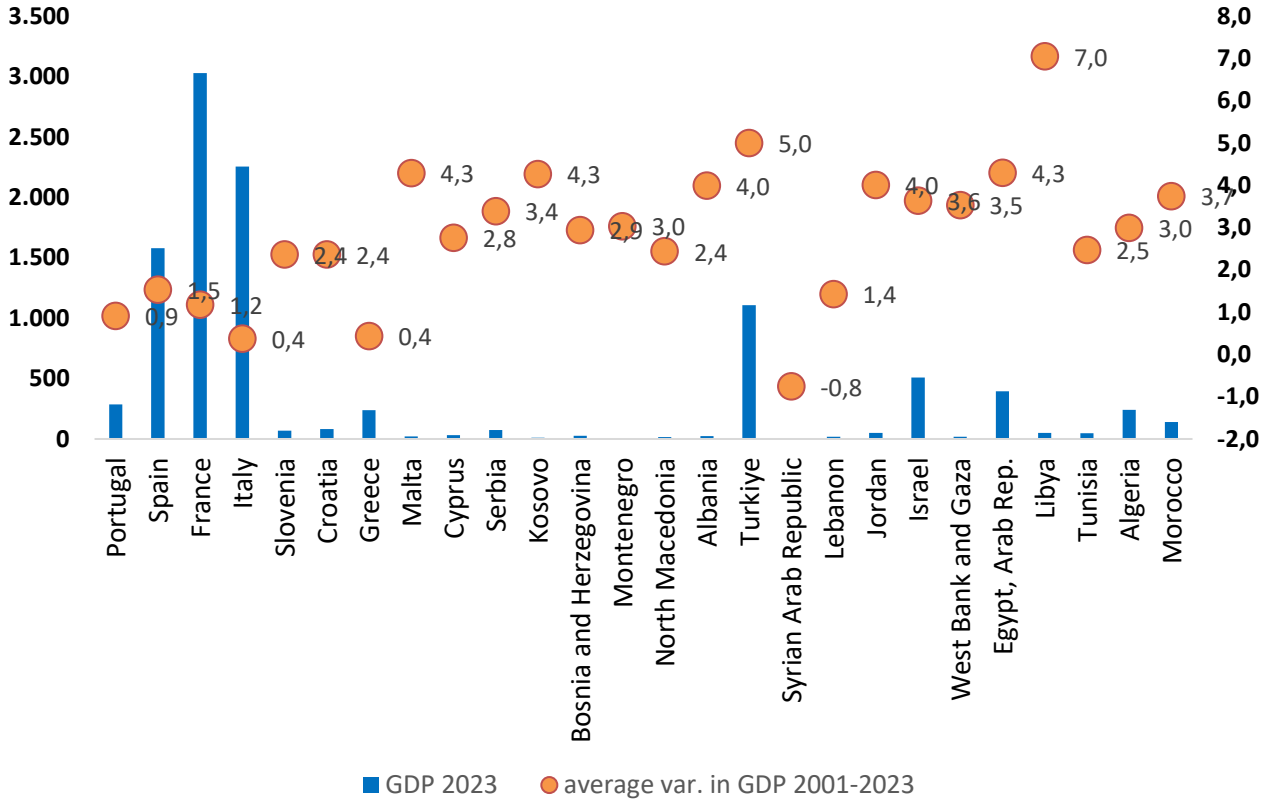
SOME HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS

Size of the economy and growth dynamics

In 2023, the total GDP of the Mediterranean region, calculated at current values, amounted to approximately 10,343 billion dollars, with a clearly prevailing weight of the European Union countries which account for 73.4% of the region's GDP. The weight of the countries of the Middle East (16.6%) and North Africa (8.5%) is smaller and Western Balkans account for just 1.5% of the total.

The three main countries of the European Union (France, Italy and Spain) together account for 2/3 of the area's total GDP (66.4%). Turkey (Gross Domestic Product equal to over 1,100 billion dollars) is the largest economy in the Middle East, in fourth place within the Mediterranean area, while Egypt (almost 400 billion dollars) is the country with the highest GDP in North Africa and Serbia the one with the largest economic system (GDP of over 75 billion dollars) among those in the Western Balkans region (see Figure 1).

Figure 1 – Gross Domestic Product in 2023 (US$ billion, current values) and average GDP growth rate in the period 2001-2023 (%)



Sources: World Bank and WeMed elaboration on World Bank data

Looking at the GDP dynamics in the period 2001-2023, the average annual growth rate of the European Union countries, apart from Malta (+4.3%), was significantly lower than that recorded in other countries of the Mediterranean area. In more detail, the countries of the European Union occupy seven of the last nine positions in terms of average GDP growth, with France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece recording an average annual growth between 0.4% (Italy and Greece) and 1.5% (Spain).

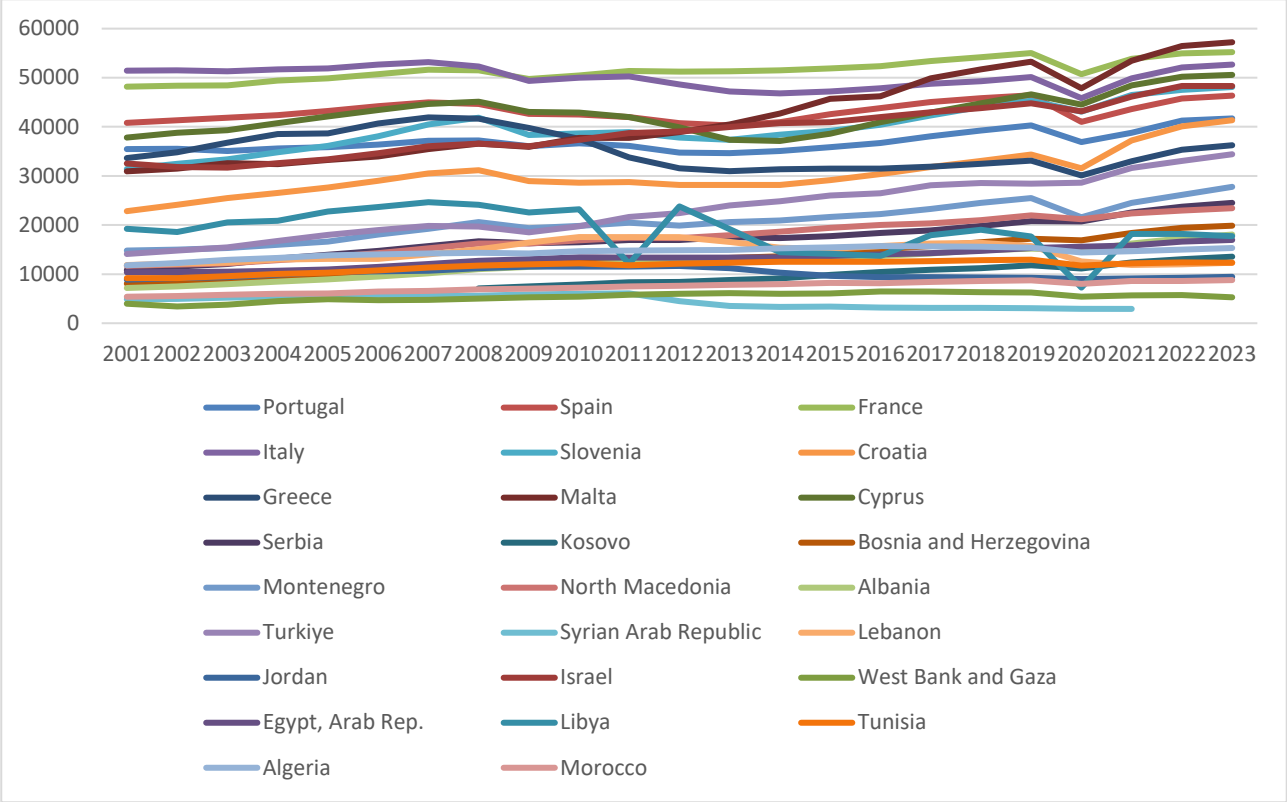
The average growth rate in the other countries was at least 2.4% (Croatia, Slovenia, North Macedonia and Tunisia), while among the countries with high levels of GDP, Turkey experienced an average growth rate of 5% in the period considered, second only to Libya (over 7%) among the twenty-six countries in the area.

The trend of GDP per capita - calculated at Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) with constant values (in $ 2017) - highlights significant differences between countries, even within homogeneous geo-economic areas. More specifically, in the European Union (see Figure 2), Croatia and Malta recorded the most vigorous growth, exceeding 80% for both countries between 2001 and 2023. The dynamics in Italy and Greece are weak (+2.5% and +7.8% respectively).

In the Western Balkans region, all countries show a very sustained trend, with a growth rate ranging between 88% (Montenegro) and 152% (Albania) over the 2001-2023 period. In the Middle East, in addition to Syria - which following a long phase of instability recorded a sharp contraction in per capita GDP (-41%) - also Lebanon (+3.7%) and Jordan (+6.1%) are characterized by weak growth. Israel's GDP per capita is widely the highest in the region (over 48 thousand dollars, +48.5% between 2001 and 2023), while Turkey (over 34

thousand dollars) shows a growth rate among the highest in the entire Mediterranean area (+144%). In North Africa, Libya - like Syria - experienced conditions of strong instability in the period considered but the contraction in GDP per capita was less pronounced (-8%). Libya's GDP, around 18 thousand dollars in 2023, remains the highest among North African countries. GDP per capita growth in Algeria, Tunisia (around +30% for the two countries), Egypt and Morocco (above 60% in both cases) led to a significant reduction of differences in GDP levels among North African countries in 2023.

Figure 2 – GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international $). Years 2001-2023



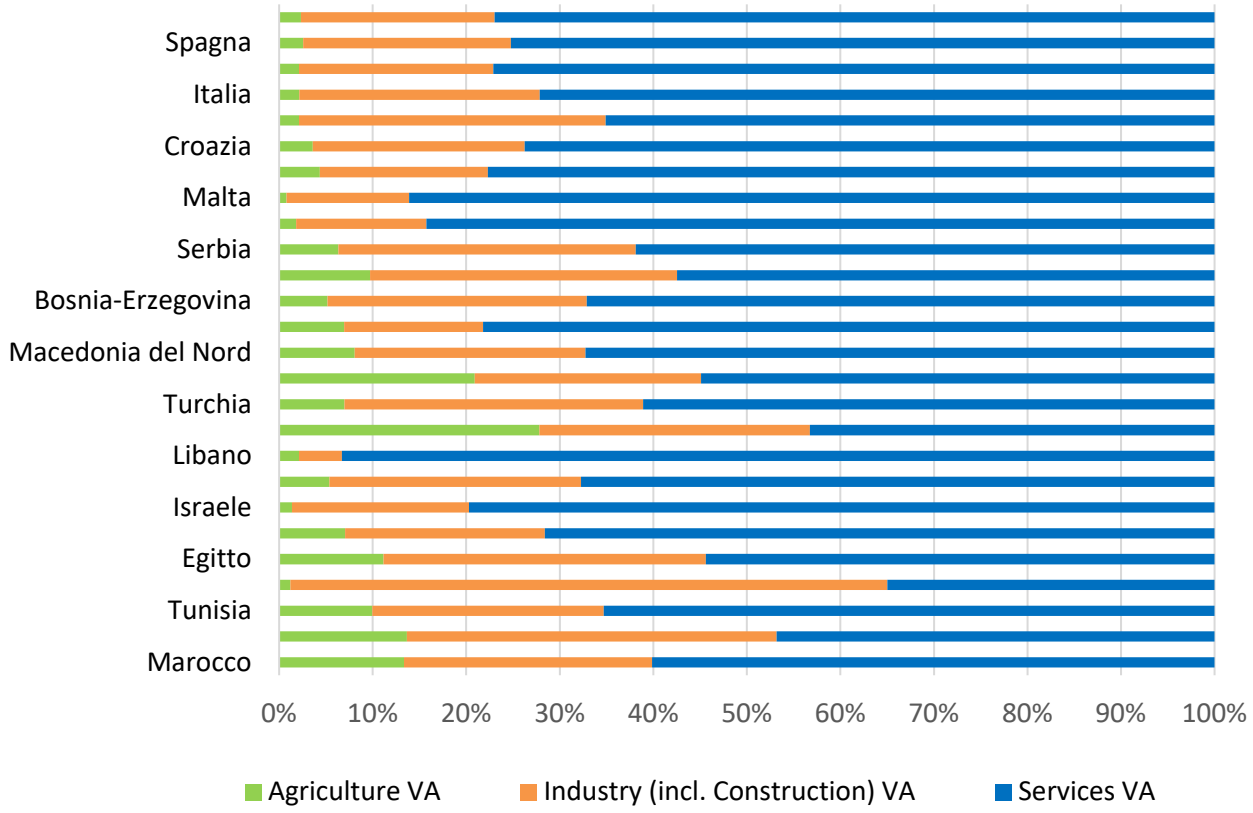
Source: World Bank (WB)

Production structure

The characteristics of the twenty-six countries in the Mediterranean area, in terms of different levels of development and endowment of resources, are clearly visible by observing the composition of the Value Added of the economies by macro-sectors (see Figure 3).

The incidence of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector (hereinafter "agricultural" or "primary" sector) in the countries of the European Union - in an advanced stage of tertiarization of their economies - is very low and does not exceed 3% in most cases. In reaches the maximum level in Greece (4.3% of the total value added). The weight is greater in the Western Balkans, between 6% and 10%, with a peak of almost 21% in Albania. Lebanon and Israel in the Middle East also show a very low incidence of the primary sector and an advanced economic structure, with a strong weight of services, as does Libya in North Africa (just 1.2% the incidence of the agricultural sector) but for opposite reasons, thanks to the strong incidence of industry (63.8% of total added value, the largest share in the entire Mediterranean area), especially extractive; in the other North African countries the weight of agricultural value added is high, between 10% (Tunisia) and 13.7% (Algeria).

Figure 3 – Composition of Value Added by macro-sectors. Year 2023 (%)



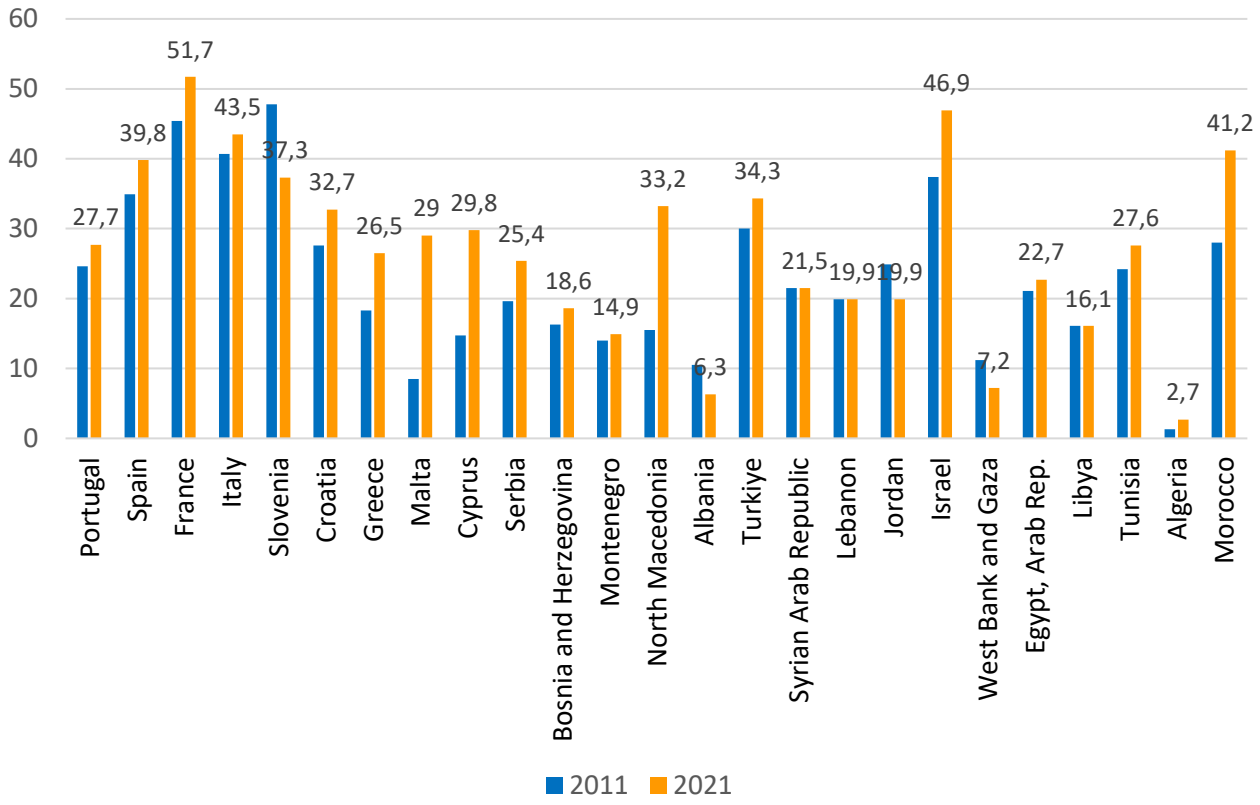
Source: WeMed elaboration on World Bank data

Within the manufacturing industry, the weight of "high value added" products from medium/hi-tech sectors signals the level of technological development achieved by a country and the ability of its production system to compete at an international level.

For most European Union countries this incidence is above 30%, with peaks of almost 52% in France. Other countries with a strong weight of such production are North Macedonia (33.2%), Turkey (34.3%) and, above all, Israel (almost 47% of total manufacturing). Morocco also records a very high incidence of medium/high technology production (41.2%) in fourth place in the Mediterranean area (see Figure 4).

Comparing the data for 2021 with 2011, we note a strong growth in the incidence of hi-tech production for Malta, Cyprus, North Macedonia and Morocco.

Figure 4 – Value Added of medium and high technology manufacturing (% of total manufacturing). Years 2011 and 2021



Source: World Bank Development Indicators on United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) data

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

OVERVIEW

	INDICATORS	Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)	Exports of goods and services (annual % growth)	Exports of goods and services (US$ billion, current values)	Fuel exports (% of merchandise exports)	Fuel imports (% of merchandise imports)	Imports of goods and services (annual % growth)	Imports of goods and services (US$ billion, current values)	Foreign direct investment, net inflows (% of GDP)	Foreign direct investment, net outflows (% of GDP)
	Year	2023 (a)	2023 (b)	2023 (a)	2023 (c)	2023 (c)	2023 (b)	2023 (a)	2023 (d)	2023 (d)
EUROPEAN UNION	Portugal	47,4	4,1	136,2	6,6	11,6	2,2	133,8	3,4	2,1
	Spain	39,0	2,3	615,8	6,8	14,6	0,3	550,6	2,1	1,8
	France	32,7	1,2	990,5	5,1	13,4	-0,4	1057,7	-0,1	1,4
	Italy	35,1	0,2	790,4	3,6	14,7	-0,5	759,3	1,2	1,0
	Slovenia	84,0	-2,0	57,3	5,6	9,0	-5,1	52,8	1,7	0,8
	Croatia	54,0	-2,9	44,7	12,0	16,1	-5,3	46,2	3,6	1,6
	Greece	44,9	3,7	106,9	32,4	27,8	2,1	118,6	2,1	1,5
	Malta	166,7	8,7	34,9	5,4	16,1	4,6	30,9	27,1	-34,2
	Cyprus	89,4	-1,2	28,8	49,0	22,4	1,7	29,1	1,7	-29,5
WESTERN BALCANS	Serbia	59,9	2,4	45,0	..	..	-1,1	48,4	7,3	0,2
	Kosovo	39,7	6,3	4,1	..	..	5,9	7,4	8,2	2,0
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	44,1	-3,2	11,9	9,5	13,2	-2,4	15,4	3,3	0,3
	Montenegro	50,7	8,6	3,8	36,7	10,4	5,2	5,1	14,0	0,8
	North Macedonia	72,8	-0,1	10,7	4,1	13,0	-5,8	12,7	6,3	1,3
	Albania	39,6	10,1	9,1	0,4	0,3	1,3	10,3	6,7	0,3
MIDDLE EAST	Turkiye	32,3	-2,7	357,5	6,4	8,3	11,7	384,4	1,5	0,5
	Syrian Arab Republic	24,8	15,8	2,2	49,9	19,6	122,0	6,6		
	Lebanon	46,1	2,8	8,3	0,4	29,7	-0,3	14,8	2,5	0,3
	Jordan	30,3	..	14,0	0,9	15,1	..	23,2	2,3	0,0
	Israel	30,9	-0,8	157,4	5,3	11,6	-6,6	138,4	4,4	2,0
	West Bank and Gaza	19,6	5,7	3,4	0,0	24,4	3,0	11,6	1,2	-0,1
NORTH AFRICA	Egypt, Arab Rep.	19,1	31,4	75,6	17,5	15,2	1,1	84,5	2,4	0,1
	Libya	68,6	7,1	34,7	94,4	13,1	-16,5	20,9	1,3	0,5
	Tunisia	51,1	9,7	24,8	8,0	19,1	7,9	28,2	1,4	0,0
	Algeria	25,2	3,1	60,4	96,1	4,2	19,4	50,4	0,0	0,0
	Morocco	44,0	9,8	62,0	1,0	20,8	8,2	73,7	1,7	0,5

(a) 2021 Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan
(b) 2021 Syrian Arab Republic
(c) 2022 Albania, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, West Bank and Gaza, Tunisia, Morocco; 2019 Libya; 2017 Algeria; 2010 Syrian Arab Republic;
(d) 2022 Malta, Cyprus, Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Turkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, West Bank and Gaza, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco; 2021 Albania and Libya;
(..) not available

Sources: *World Bank national accounts data, OECD National Accounts data files, International Monetary Fund, UNCTAD.*

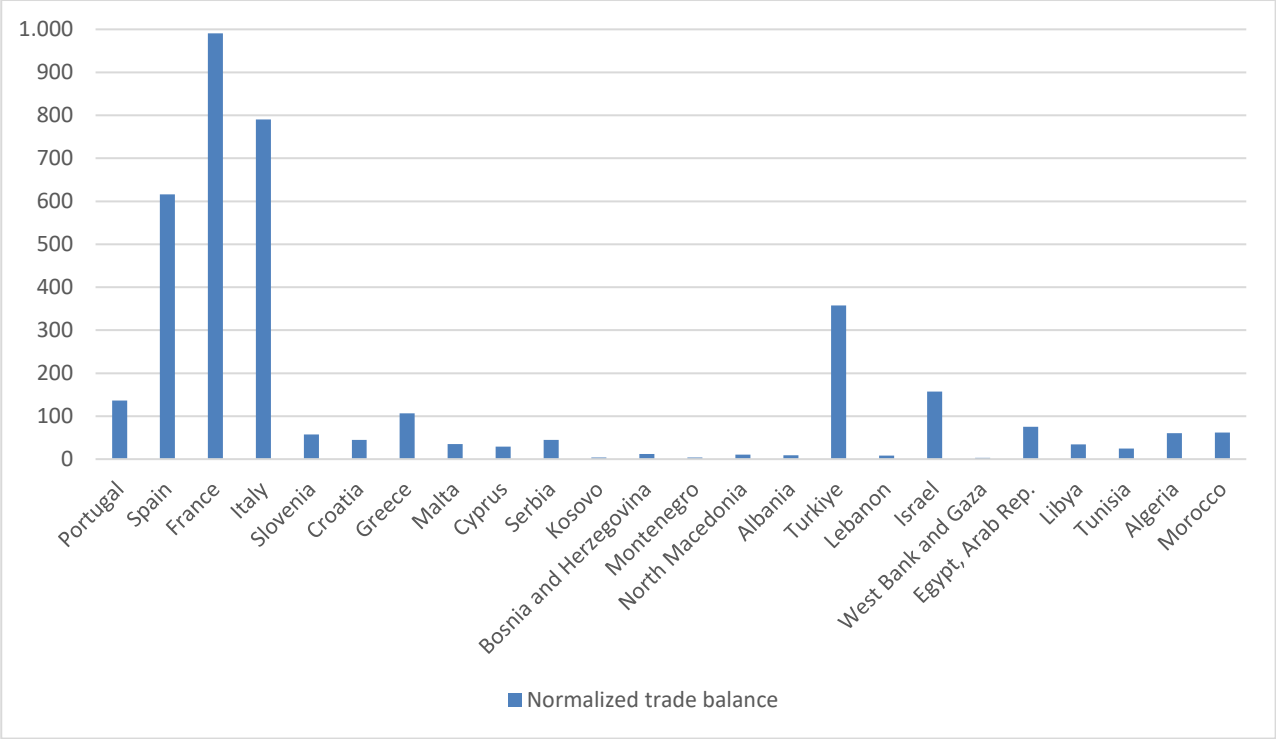
SOME HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS

Trade balance and export dynamics

The Mediterranean countries have highly differentiated trade balance values. In 2023, just eight of the twenty-six countries had a positive balance, five of which belonged to the European Union.

In more detail, Figure 1 shows the normalized trade balance of Mediterranean countries, given by the ratio between net exports (export - import) and total trade (export + import). EU countries with a positive balance are, in order, Malta (+6.2%), Spain (+5.6%), Slovenia, Italy and Portugal. In addition to the five EU countries, also Libya (+24.6%), Algeria (+9%) and Israel (+6.4%) present a positive normalized balance. Among the countries with a strong deficit, Palestine and Syria record a normalized balance around -50%, while Jordan, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Lebanon between -25% and -30%.

Figure 1 – Normalized trade balance, year 2023 (%)



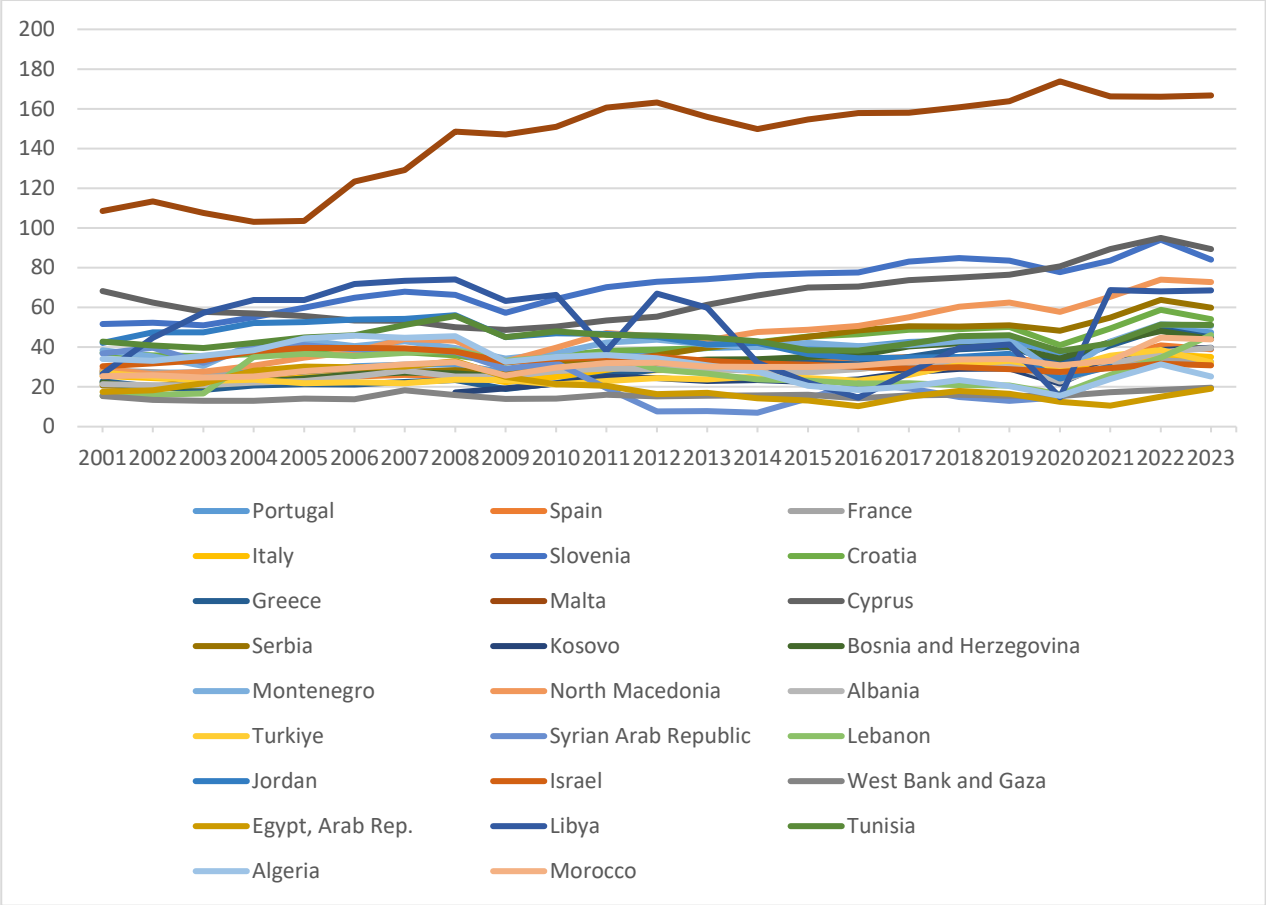
Source: WeMed elaboration on World Bank national accounts data and OECD National Accounts data files.

With reference to the trend of the ratio between exports and GDP in the period 2001-2023, it is more regular for the countries of the European Union and the Western Balkans compared to what was recorded in the Middle East and North Africa (see Figure 2). Only three of the twenty-six countries in the Mediterranean region recorded a contraction in the incidence of exports on GDP over the period observed: Algeria, Syria and Jordan (the last two with data available as at 2021).

Among the countries of the European Union, Malta stands out for an export-to-GDP ratio of over 100% throughout the period considered, thanks to its role as a primary transportation hub (166.7% in 2023), followed by Cyprus (89.4%) and Slovenia (84%). The Western Balkan countries show a markedly growing and similar trend between them, with North Macedonia and Serbia recording the highest value in 2023 (72.8% and 59.9% respectively) and the highest growth compared to 2001.

Middle Eastern countries show slightly lower values compared to other geographical areas. None of them exceed 50%, with Lebanon reaching 46.1% in 2023 thanks to the strong growth over the last three years. In North Africa, a particularly irregular trend can be noted for Libya (68.6% in 2023), where the high volatility of hydrocarbons prices strongly affects the value of the indicator, while Egypt is the country with the lowest incidence of exports on GDP, less than 20%.

Figure 2 – Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)



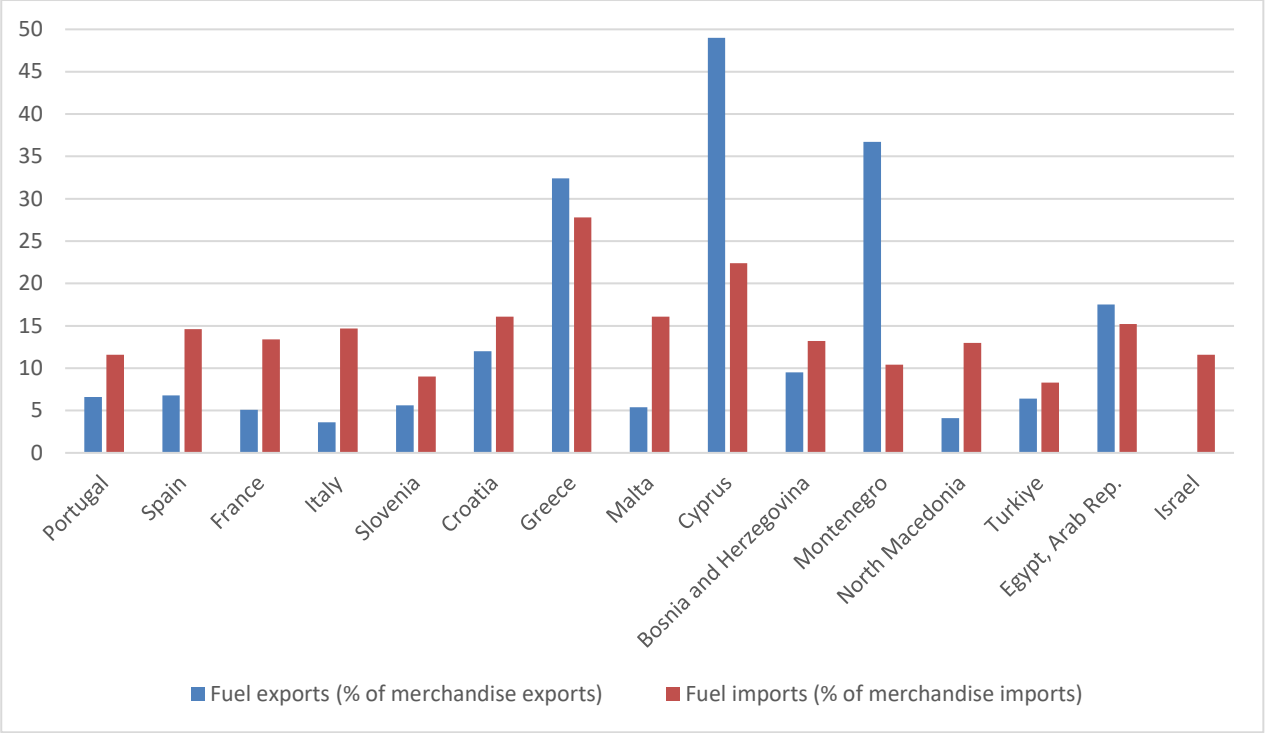
Sources: World Bank national accounts data and OECD National Accounts data files.

The energy component in foreign trade

Energy products constitute a significant share of Mediterranean countries' trade. Most of the twenty-six countries in the area show a higher incidence of energy products in imports than in exports (see Figure 3); seven countries are the exception, three of which are in North Africa.

In more detail, among the European Union countries only Greece and Cyprus have a higher incidence of the share of energy products on total goods in exports than in imports (32.4% vs. 27.8% and 49% vs. 22.4% respectively). Since they are not countries with significant fossil resources on their territory, Greece and Cyprus evidently act as hubs for the exchange of basic and refined energy products. In the Western Balkans, fuels account for 36.7% of Montenegro's exports of goods and only 10.4% of imports. Three of the five North African countries record a higher share of energy products on exported goods than on those imported: Egypt (17.5% versus 15.2%) and, above all, Libya and Algeria, where around 95% of goods exported it's made up of energy products.

Figure 3 – Exports and imports of fuels (% of goods trade). Year 2023

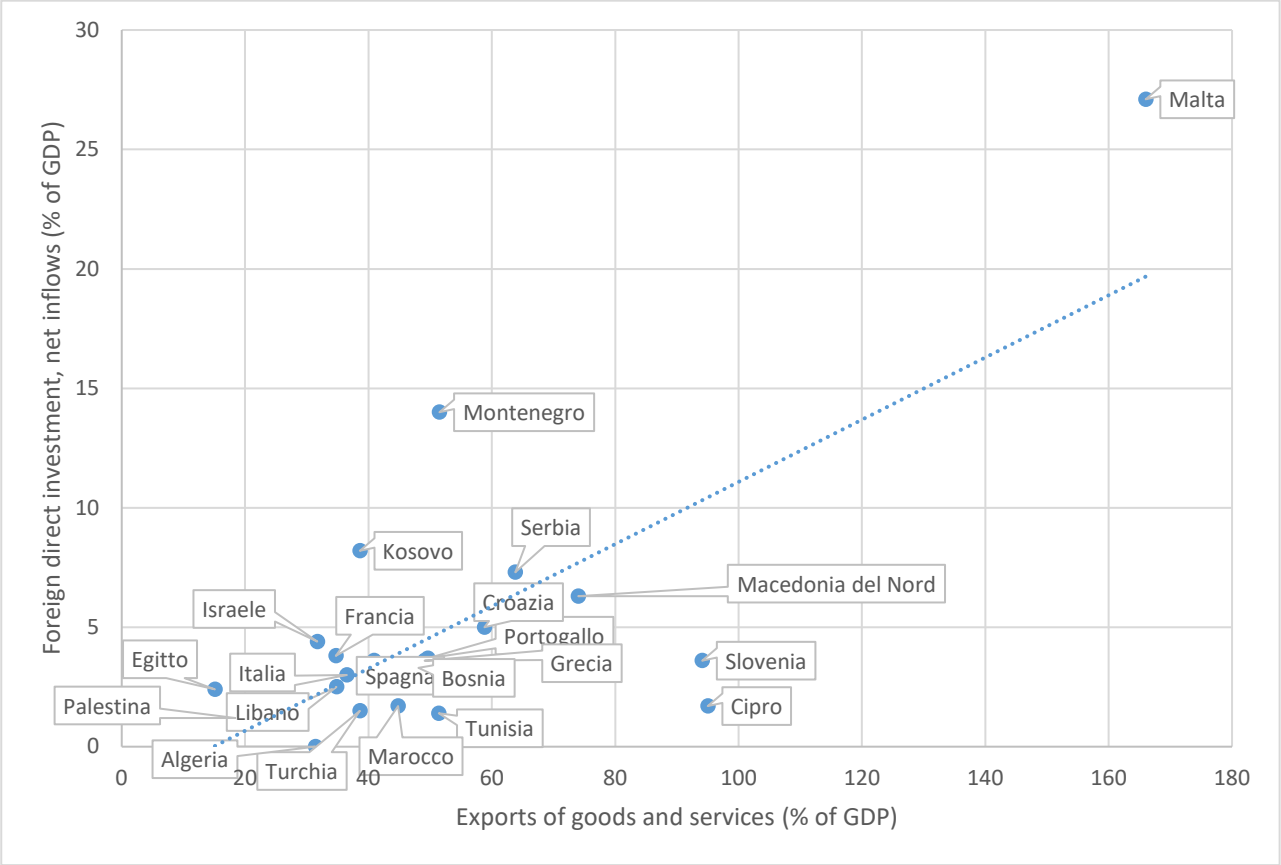


Note: Figure 3 shows countries with data available as at 2023
Sources: UNCTAD and World Bank

Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) flows are particularly significant in the Western Balkan countries where the incidence on GDP ranges between 6.3% (North Macedonia) and 14% (Montenegro). Bosnia-Herzegovina is an exception with an incidence of 3.3%, closer to the levels of European Union countries. In the EU, excluding Malta, the weight of foreign investment flows does not exceed 5% (Croatia). The weight of FDI in Middle East and North Africa is significantly lower (maximum incidence of 2.5% in Lebanon); the exception is Israel (4.4%) where it is in line with the European Union countries' average.

Figure 4 shows the twenty-six countries of the Mediterranean area distributed considering the incidence of both exports and foreign investments on GDP. The distribution of countries indicates a clear correlation between the share of exports and the share of incoming foreign investments. In more detail, Malta, which has a far higher incidence of foreign investment flows on GDP than the other countries, records exports equal to approximately 1.7 times the value of the gross domestic product.

Figure 4 – Exports of goods and services (% of GDP) and Foreign direct investment, net inflows (% of GDP). Year 2022.



Sources: World Bank and International Monetary Fund

OTHER ECONOMIC TOPICS

OVERVIEW

	INDICATORS	High-technology exports (% of manufactured exports)	ICT goods exports (% of total goods exports)	ICT goods imports (% total goods imports)	Patent applications, residents and non residents (per 1.000,000 inhabitants)	Commercial bank branches (per 100,000 adults)	Domestic credit to private sector (% of GDP)
	Year	2023 (a)	2022 (b)	2022 (b)	2022 (c)	2022 (d)	2023 (e)
EUROPEAN UNION	Portugal	6,3	3,3	5,6	71,6	30,0	81,7
	Spain	12,4	1,4	4,3	27,6	33,7	80,3
	France	15,1	3,6	5,4	216,9	32,2	113,5
	Italy	7,8	2,0	3,9	156,4	33,2	64,8
	Slovenia	10,1	2,2	3,3	116,5	21,5	36,9
	Croatia	9,0	1,6	3,6	33,7	26,2	48,1
	Greece	5,5	2,8	4,0	104,1	16,1	50,2
	Malta	33,4	25,7	9,4	30,1	22,4	69,1
	Cyprus	1,4	1,7	3,8	5,6	21,9	65,9
WEST BALKANS	Serbia	..	1,4	3,5	22,2	24,0	35,8
	Kosovo	..	..	..	..	14,6	50,6
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	3,1	0,2	2,4	15,8	29,5	44,3
	Montenegro	8,2	0,8	3,8	11,3	34,5	43,8
	North Macedonia	4,5	0,6	3,8	11,7	22,1	53,2
	Albania	..	..	0,2	7,6	17,7	30,6
MIDDLE EAST	Turkiye	4,3	0,7	3,0	107,3	14,6	43,8
	Syrian Arab Republic	0,3	0,0	2,2	6,3	4,4	22,3
	Lebanon	3,9	1,0	5,0	47,5	20,8	106,6
	Jordan	0,7	0,7	3,2	31,0	12,6	82,1
	Israel	30,9	13,5	9,3	1.053,9	14,5	70,2
	West Bank and Gaza	1,2	..	..	..	12,7	56,5
NORTH AFRICA	Egypt, Arab Rep.	3,0	2,4	2,6	17,2	6,3	27,5
	Libya	..	..	5,7	..	12,3	12,3
	Tunisia	9,6	4,3	5,2	29,6	22,1	66,5
	Algeria	..	..	4,9	24,9	5,3	18,2
	Morocco	6,6	2,4	3,6	77,8	21,6	63,8

(a) 2022 Spain, Montenegro, Albania, Lebanon, Jordan, West Bank and Gaza, Tunisia and Morocco; 2019 Libya; 2017 Algeria; 2010 Syrian Arab Republic
(b) 2021 Tunisia; 2019 Libya; 2017 Algeria; 2010 Syrian Arab Republic
(c) 2015 Lebanon
(d) 2013 Syrian Arab Republic
(e) 2022 Israel, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco; 2017 Lebanon; 2010 Syrian Arab Republic
(..) not available

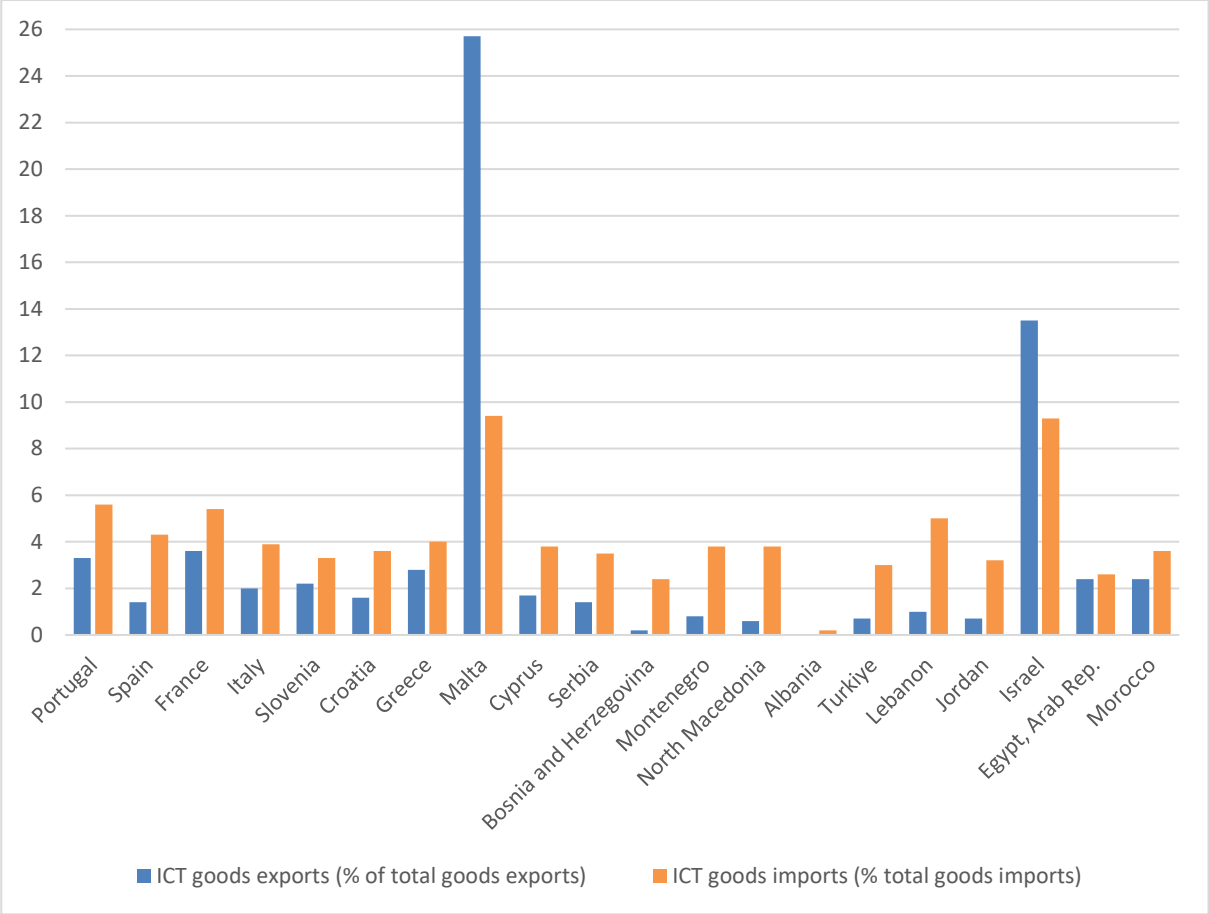
Sources: *International Monetary Fund, UNCTAD, World Bank, WeMed elaboration on World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) data.*

SOME HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS

Foreign trade of ICT products

The role of Mediterranean countries in the international trade of ICT products is mainly that of importers: of the twenty-six countries in the area, only Malta and Israel record a greater incidence of these goods in the country's exports compared to imports (see Figure 1). The two countries are also the most specialized in this specific trade, showing the highest share of ICT goods on both imports and exports. For Tunisia as well, data suggest a strong specialization of the country in this sector: 4.3% of the country's exports of goods are made up of products from the ICT sector, the highest figure among Mediterranean countries if Malta and Israel are excluded.

Figure 1 – Exports and imports of ICT products (% of total goods imports and exports). Year 2022



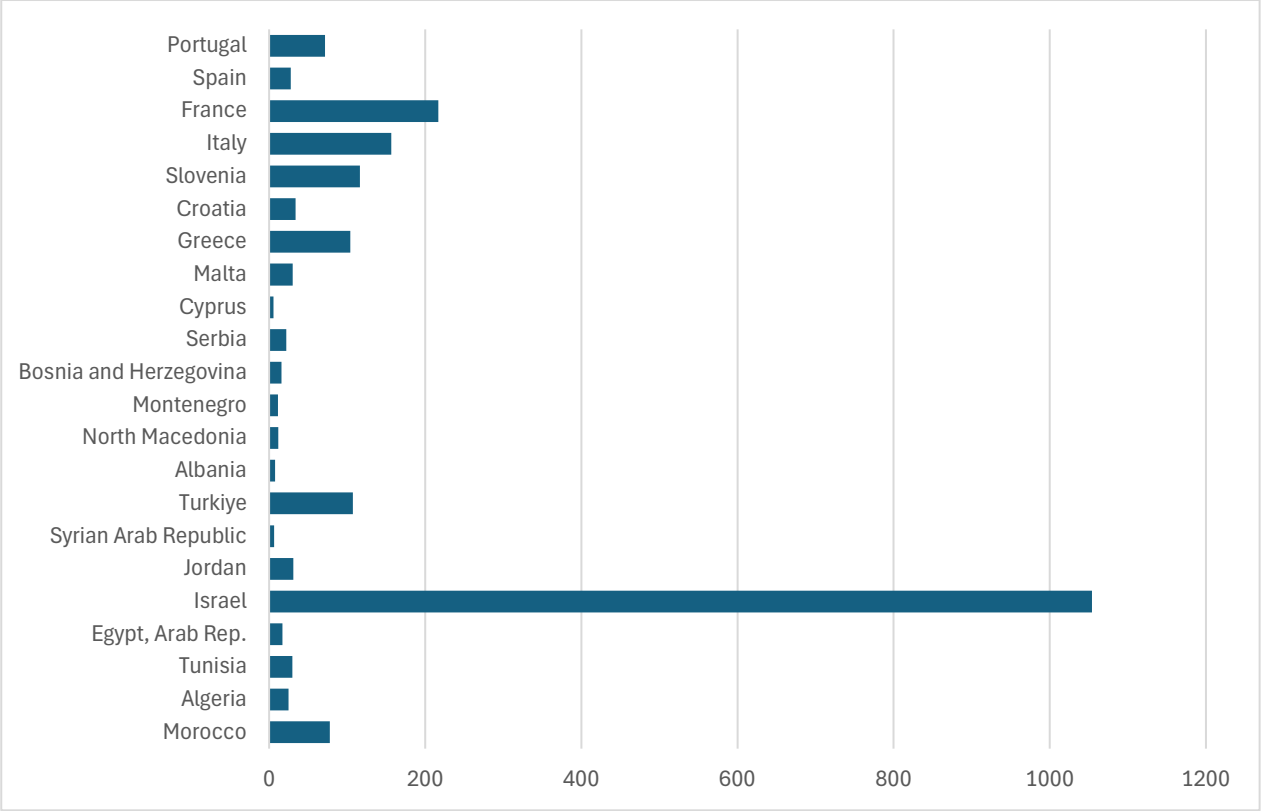
Note: Figure 1 shows only countries with data available as at 2022
Source: UNCTAD

Patent applications

The number of patent applications submitted signal the prevailing innovative context within a country and the quality of higher education and research systems.

Within the Mediterranean region, data relating to patent applications submitted by residents and non-residents (see Figure 2) indicate a strong concentration in a few countries. Only six of the twenty-six countries in the area record a number of patents filed, per million inhabitants, greater than 100; these are France (216.9), Italy (156.4), Slovenia (116.5) and Greece (104.1) in the European Union, Turkey (107.3) and Israel (1053, 9) in the Middle East, the latter by far the country with the highest concentration of patent applications presented in the entire Mediterranean region. Morocco's figure (77.8) is the highest among North African countries, seventh overall among the twenty-six in the area.

Figure 2 – Patent applications submitted by residents and non-residents (per million inhabitants). Year 2022



Note: Figure 2 shows only countries with data available as at 2022
Source: World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

The activity of financial intermediaries

The incidence of domestic credit to private sector on GDP indicates the level of activity of financial intermediaries within the economic system. In the EU and the Middle East countries show the highest values, between 40% (Slovenia and Turkey) and 80% approximately (Spain, Portugal and Jordan). The exception is France, where the percentage is 113.5% in 2023 (see Figure 3).

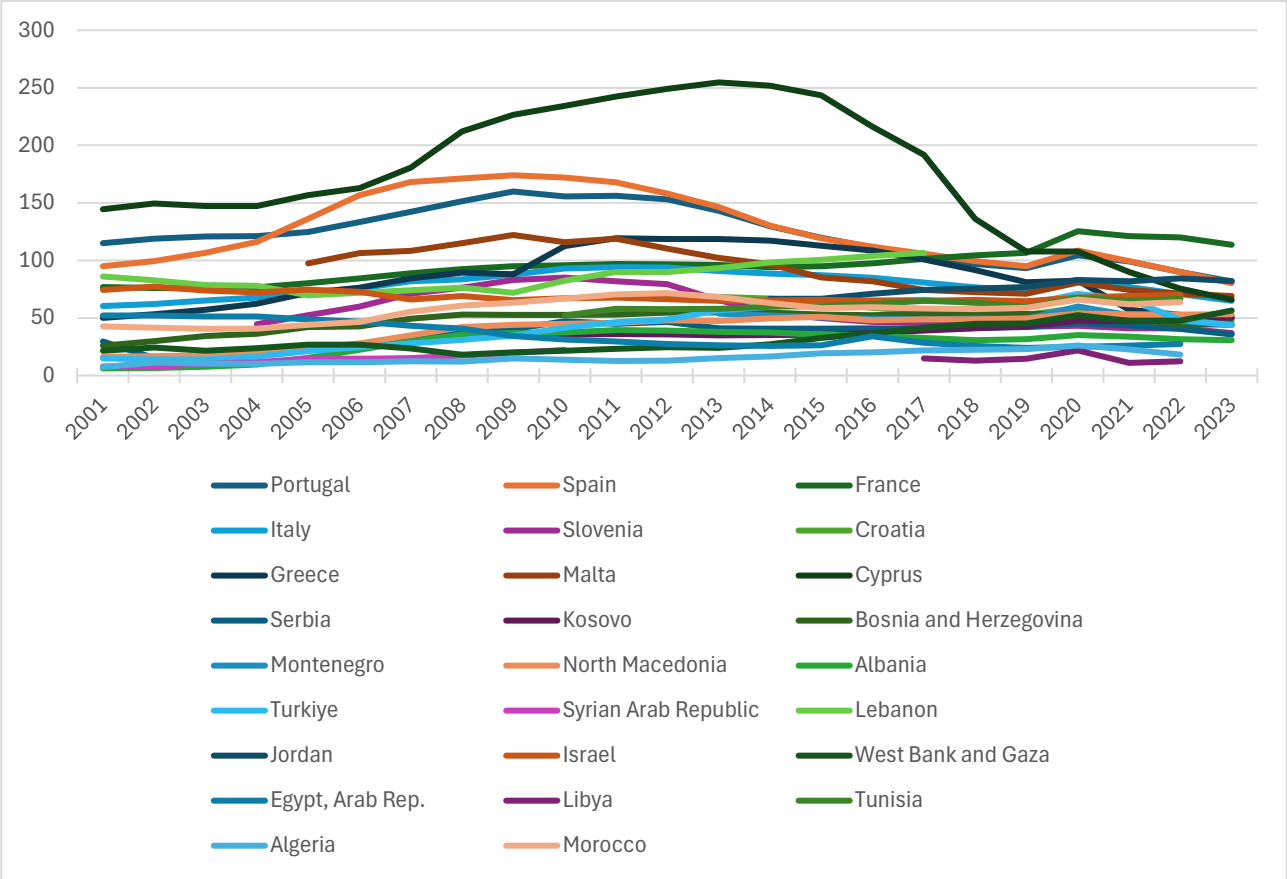
The countries of the Western Balkans follow (with percentages between 30% and 50% on average). In North Africa the degree of financial intermediation is highly differentiated: on the one hand, Tunisia (66.5%) and Morocco (63.8%) with values in line with the EU countries average, on the other Egypt (27.5%), Algeria (18.2%) and Libya (12.3%) with the lowest percentages in the entire Mediterranean area.

Looking at the trend over the period observed, the indicator of financial intermediation for EU countries reaches the maximum level in 2009 for most countries, corresponding to the outbreak of the international financial crisis in Europe (between 174% in Spain and 88% in Greece). The exceptions are Cyprus, where the maximum level (254.7%) was reached in 2014 and France, where the growth of the indicator did not show interruptions until 2020 (125.4%, compared to 77% in 2001), before the slight decrease in the last three years. In 2020, all EU countries recorded a growth of the indicator, strong in some cases, compared to the previous year.

Even for the Western Balkan countries, 2009 was a crucial year for the banking system's ability to finance the economy. After a constant and vigorous growth of the indicator during the entire first decade of the 2000s, starting from 2010 there has been a flat trend for most countries and in some cases (Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Albania) a significant contraction. As in EU countries, also in the Western Balkans (except in Bosnia-Herzegovina), the indicator grew significantly in 2020 and then fell in the following three years.

In the Middle East and North Africa, the degree of financial intermediation does not appear to be linked to the consequences of the international crisis of 2008-2009. In detail, a steady growth of the indicator is evident in all countries except Israel, where there is a flat profile, and Egypt, where it records a decline of over 20 percentage points over the period observed. Conversely, in line with what has been said regarding the countries of the European Union and the Western Balkans, 2020 marks a peak of particularly sustained growth in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa.

Figure 3 – Domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP)



Sources: International Monetary Fund, World Bank.

ENVIRONMENT AND TERRITORY

OVERVIEW

	INDICATORS	Surface area (sq. km)	Forest area (% of land area)	Marine protected areas (% of territorial waters)	Terrestrial protected areas (% of total land area)	Rural population (% of total population)	Urban population (% of total population)	Population in the largest city (% of urban population)	Annual freshwater withdrawals, total (billion cubic meters)	Level of water stress (freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources)
	Year	2024 (a)	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2023	2020	2020
EUROPEAN UNION	Portugal	92.226	36,2	16,9	22,9	32,1	67,9	42,0	6,1	12,3
	Spain	505.983	37,2	12,8	28,1	18,4	81,6	17,1	29,0	43,2
	France	638.475	31,7	49,8	28,4	18,2	81,8	20,1	26,3	23,0
	Italy	302.110	32,5	10,6	21,6	28,0	72,0	10,2	33,6	29,6
	Slovenia	20.273	61,4	2,3	40,4	43,9	56,1	..	1,0	6,8
	Croatia	56.594	34,7	9,0	38,5	41,4	58,6	30,3	0,7	1,5
	Greece	131.694	30,3	4,5	35,2	19,3	80,7	37,7	10,1	20,5
	Malta	316	1,4	7,4	30,6	5,1	94,9	..	0,1	81,8
	Cyprus	9.253	18,7	8,6	38,7	33,0	67,0	..	0,3	37,6
WESTERN BALCANS	Serbia	77.472	32,4	..	8,1	42,9	57,1	37,3	5,3	6,0
	Kosovo	10.888	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	51.210	42,7	0,0	4,1	49,7	50,3	21,4	0,3	2,0
	Montenegro	13.810	61,5	0,6	13,9	31,5	68,5	..	0,2	..
	North Macedonia	25.710	39,7	..	15,4	40,5	59,5	56,7	1,6	38,7
	Albania	28.750	28,8	2,8	18,6	35,4	64,6	29,3	0,8	4,7
MIDDLE EAST	Turkiye	785.350	29,1	1,8	7,0	22,5	77,5	24,0	61,5	45,7
	Syrian Arab Republic	185.180	2,8	0,2	0,7	42,6	57,4	19,4	14,0	124,4
	Lebanon	10.450	14,1	0,2	1,9	10,6	89,4	50,6	1,8	58,8
	Jordan	89.318	1,1	1,0	4,5	8,0	92,0	21,4	0,9	104,3
	Israel	22.070	6,5	0,0	24,5	7,1	92,9	48,8	1,3	110,1
	West Bank and Gaza	6.025	1,7	..	8,4	22,4	77,6	19,4	0,4	50,3
NORTH AFRICA	Egypt, Arab Rep.	1.001.450	0,0	5,0	13,1	56,9	43,1	45,7	77,5	141,2
	Libya	1.759.540	0,1	0,6	0,1	18,4	81,6	21,1	5,7	817,1
	Tunisia	163.610	4,5	1,0	7,9	29,5	70,5	28,2	3,9	98,1
	Algeria	2.381.741	0,8	0,1	4,6	24,7	75,3	8,5	9,8	137,9
	Morocco	446.550	12,9	0,7	2,2	34,9	65,1	15,8	10,6	50,7

(a) 2021 for all Western Balkan countries, the Middle East, and North Africa

Source: Eurostat, Istat, World Bank Development Indicators based on United Nations Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), World Bank Development Indicators based on United Nations Population Division, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

SOME HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS

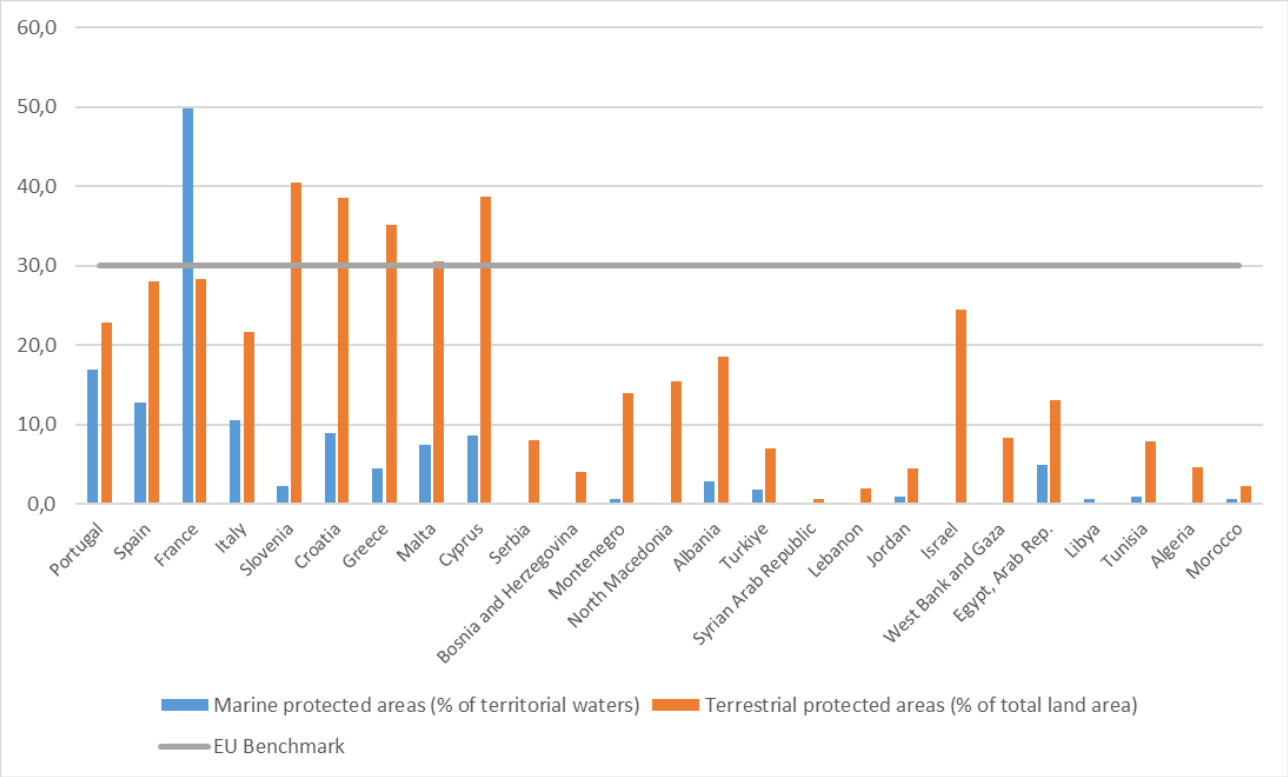
Forested and protected areas

A basic indicator that characterizes the individual countries concerns territorial extension: the surface area of the countries in the Mediterranean region has the highest values in North Africa, with Algeria, Libya and Egypt covering more than 2 million, 1.7 million and 1 million square kilometers respectively. Within the European Union, the countries with the largest land area are France (with over 600 thousand square kilometers), Spain (about 500 thousand square kilometers) and Italy (about 300 thousand square kilometers). With respect to this indicator, the forest area represents a significant share especially in the countries of the European Union (in which Slovenia stands out with a share that exceeds 60%) and in some of the Western Balkan countries (in particular, in Montenegro this share reaches about 60%).

Within the surface area of territories, protected natural areas constitute marine and terrestrial environments that are of significant interest due to their natural, geomorphological, physical, and biochemical characteristics, including flora and fauna. The European Commission has adopted the European Biodiversity Strategy to 2030, which among its objectives asks member states to protect at least 30% of national territory and 30% of the sea, and that at least one third of these areas be strictly protected. Terrestrial areas are protected by the Natura 2000 ecological network, set up for the territory of the European Union under the

'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC to conserve biodiversity and ensure the long-term maintenance of natural habitats and threatened or rare species of flora and fauna at Community level; it includes Sites of Community Importance (SCI)/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and also Special Protection Areas (SPA). France is the only country in the Mediterranean area that meets the objectives of the European Strategy for the share of marine protected areas, reaching almost 50% (Figure 1). For terrestrial protected areas, the 30% target has been reached by five other EU countries: Slovenia, Cyprus, Croatia, Greece, and Malta. Italy is still rather far from the targets for marine areas (about 10% of protected areas), while for terrestrial areas it is just over 20%. In the other macro-regions, the most positive results concern land areas, and in particular Albania in the Western Balkans (almost 20%), Israel in the Middle East (with a share close to 25%), and Egypt in North Africa (just under 15%).

Figure 1 - Marine and terrestrial protected areas. 2022 *(%)*



Source: World Bank Development Indicators based on United Nations Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) data.

Urban and rural population

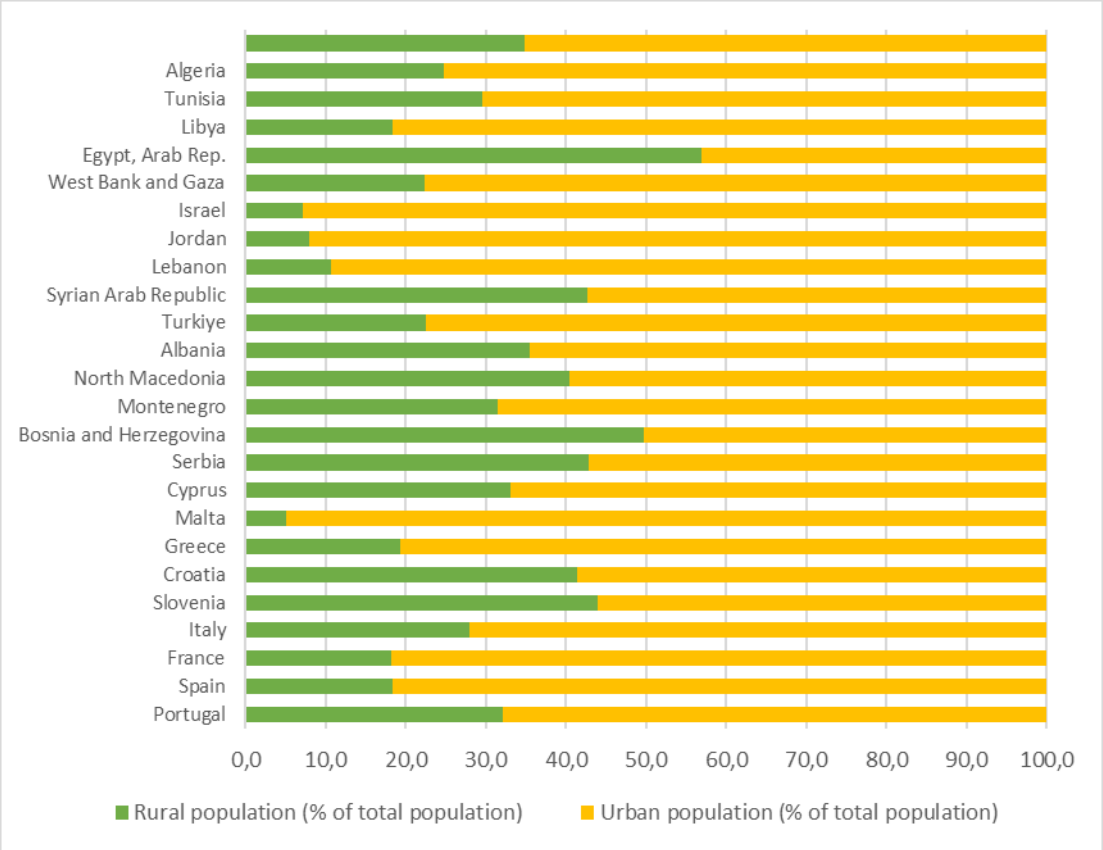
The latest UN World Social Report is dedicated to rural development and the strategies needed to bridge the gap between rural and urban communities (https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/world-social-report-2024/). Rural populations usually have less access to education, health, and other services. However, rural development can play a central role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. According to the Report, to bridge the gap between the two communities, it would be important to act on three different levers: new technologies for water and land use, sustainable agricultural practices, and increased investment in land.

In the Mediterranean region, Egypt and Bosnia and Herzegovina are the countries with the highest shares of rural population, 56.9% and 49.7% respectively (Figure 2). Among European countries, Slovenia and Croatia

show the shares above 40%. In contrast, the highest shares of urban population are found in Malta, France and Spain among the European Union countries, Israel and Jordan in the Middle East and Libya in North Africa. From a dynamic point of view, there is a clear decrease in the rural population share over the 20-year period, especially in Portugal, Turkey, Jordan, and Morocco. By contrast, this share is only slightly increasing in Cyprus.

In general, the explosive growth of metropolitan realities indicates the demographic transition from the rural to the urban world and is associated with the shift from an economy based on agriculture to one based on industry and services. Compared to the urban population, the share for large cities (which concerns precisely the population living in metropolitan realities) is most representative in the EU countries for Portugal (over 40%) and Greece (around 38%). Among the Western Balkan countries, North Macedonia reports values exceeding 50%. In the Middle East, Lebanon and Israel return the highest values in terms of population in large urban realities (50.6% and 48.8% respectively), while Egypt is the North African country with the highest share (45.7%).

Figure 2 - Rural and urban population. 2023 *(% of total population)*



Source: World Bank Development Indicators based on United Nations Population Division data.

Water resources

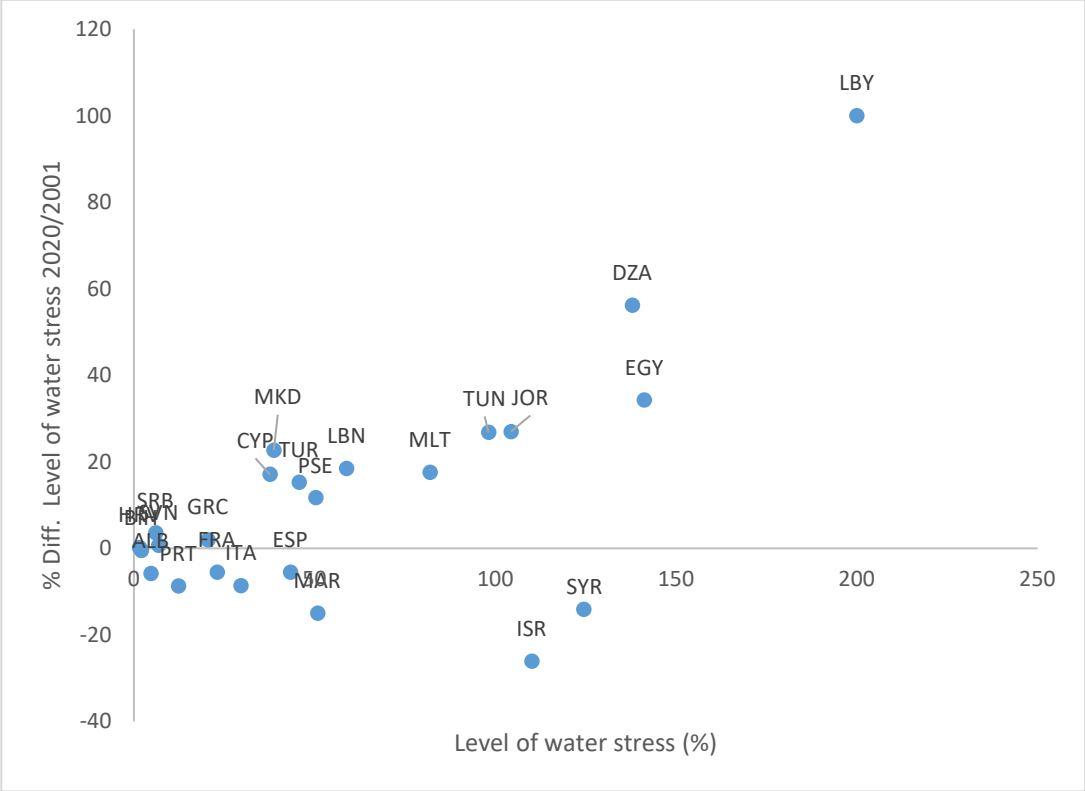
Water resources data are examined using two indicators: annual water withdrawal (assessed by excluding evaporation losses from storage reservoirs) and water stress level, which relates freshwater withdrawal to available water resources. The smaller the gap between supply and demand, the more vulnerable an area is to water scarcity. A country facing 'extreme water stress' indicates that it is using at least 80% of available supplies, while one with 'high water stress' is withdrawing 40% of supplies. Increased hydrological variability and climate

change have a profound impact on the water sector through the hydrological cycle, availability, demand, and allocation of water at global, basin and local levels. As is well known, proper management of water resources is a crucial component of growth, poverty reduction and equity especially in developing countries.

The total annual freshwater withdrawals are obviously related to the size of the country, and to the specificities of each country in terms of overall water availability. Considering these considerations, one can read the highest values of the indicator, which concern Egypt (77.5^{bcm}), Turkey (61.5 ^{bcm}), Italy, Spain, and France (33.6, 29 and 26.3^{bcm} respectively). From the point of view of water stress, on the other hand, the Mediterranean countries with the greatest criticality are most of those in North Africa and the Middle East characterized by indicator values above 100% of available stocks: these are Libya, Egypt, Algeria, Syria, Israel, and Jordan (Figure 3). Also in the extreme water stress typology above the 80% threshold is Tunisia, together with Malta as the only case in the European Union. Then there are countries across the Mediterranean area that fall into the high-water stress band, presenting values around 40-50%: Spain, Turkey, Lebanon, West Bank and Gaza and Morocco.

One aspect that should be emphasized is that the level of water stress has worsened over the twenty-year period, especially in some of the most critical countries already highlighted, which already presented a more problematic situation in 2001: this is the case of Libya, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Malta, and Lebanon. On the other hand, water criticality has decreased since the beginning of the century in other countries where it is still significant: these are Syria, Israel, Morocco, and Spain.

Figure 3 - Level of water stress (freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources) in 2020 and difference in percentage points compared to 2001*



* 2002 instead of 2001 for Slovenia and Croatia, 2006 instead of 2001 for Serbia. The real figures for Libya are: 2020 water stress = 817.1; change from 2001 = 185.1.

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WeMed elaborations based on FAO data.

AGRICULTURE

OVERVIEW

	INDICATORS	Agricultural land (sq. km)	Agricultural land (% of land area)	Arable land (% of land area)	Permanent cropland (% of land area)	Fertilizer consumption (kilograms per hectare of arable land)	Agricultural methane emissions (thousand metric tons of CO2 equivalent)	Agricultural nitrous oxide emissions (thousand metric tons of CO2 equivalent)	Livestock production index (2014-2016 = 100)	Crop production index (2014-2016 = 100)	Food production index (2014-2016 = 100)
	Year	2021	2021	2021	2021 (a)	2021 (b)	2021 (c)	2021 (c)	2022	2022	2022
EUROPEAN UNION	Portugal	39.623	43,3	10,5	9,5	175,8	4.800	2.190	104,8	113,9	110,3
	Spain	262.284	52,5	23,1	10,1	161,1	25.090	16.830	118,7	87,0	98,8
	France	285.538	52,1	32,8	1,9	153,3	38.940	29.970	93,2	94,7	94,0
	Italy	124.030	41,9	24,3	7,3	133,2	21.240	11.530	102,3	94,0	97,0
	Slovenia	6.110	30,3	9,0	2,6	246,4	1.040	590	101,5	81,8	94,0
	Croatia	14.760	26,4	15,3	1,4	208,1	1.290	1.340	97,8	85,2	89,5
	Greece	58.672	45,5	16,5	8,4	150,0	3.660	3.350	100,1	94,2	102,8
	Malta	88	27,3	24,4	4,1	148,7	60	20	96,3	53,8	76,0
	Cyprus	1.231	13,3	10,3	2,8	155,4	200	240	121,6	85,5	108,7
WESTERN BALCANS	Serbia	34.850	41,4	31,1	2,4	75,0	3.190	2.380	107,0	94,6	98,4
	Kosovo	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	22.630	44,2	19,7	2,1	62,0	1.170	830	83,8	128,1	113,4
	Montenegro	2.556	19,0	0,7	0,4	312,0	270	110	108,0	89,6	100,6
	North Macedonia	12.600	50,0	16,5	1,6	50,5	690	370	93,2	102,7	100,7
	Albania	11.363	41,5	21,9	3,2	101,4	1.600	680	83,7	121,7	105,4
MIDDLE EAST	Turkiye	380.890	49,5	25,8	4,7	129,5	25.810	30.860	137,3	125,3	128,9
	Syrian Arab Republic	139.134	75,8	25,4	5,8	3,9	3.392	2.783	98,9	96,3	97,0
	Lebanon	6.793	66,4	13,6	13,7	146,3	240	490	123,1	97,9	104,1
	Jordan	10.230	11,5	2,2	0,9	138,9	620	670	130,3	98,4	110,2
	Israel	6.435	29,7	17,4	4,7	265,4	610	970	109,4	99,9	105,5
	West Bank and Gaza	3.912	64,9	7,0	11,8	372,0	..	..	104,6	116,8	111,8
NORTH AFRICA	Egypt, Arab Rep.	40.310	4,0	3,1	1,0	542,6	9.050	13.210	119,4	105,2	109,1
	Libya	153.500	8,7	1,0	0,2	14,7	1.620	1.290	120,5	98,4	105,8
	Tunisia	97.005	62,4	18,2	13,6	48,0	2.100	2.620	104,5	111,5	109,6
	Algeria	413.161	17,3	3,2	0,4	20,7	7.100	5.460	98,1	118,2	111,2
	Morocco	302.910	67,9	16,8	4,0	55,3	7.680	7.980	104,6	106,8	106,1

(a) 2020 Malta
(b) 2020 Albania
(c) 2020 Syrian Arab Republic
Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Resources Institute (WRI), World Bank Development indicators.

SOME HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS

Healthy, sustainable, and inclusive food systems among countries in the Mediterranean region are key for achieving development goals in agriculture. In the context of European and international strategies including the New Agenda for the Mediterranean and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is a growing interest in combating climate change, reducing harmful emissions, and using resources in a sustainable manner.

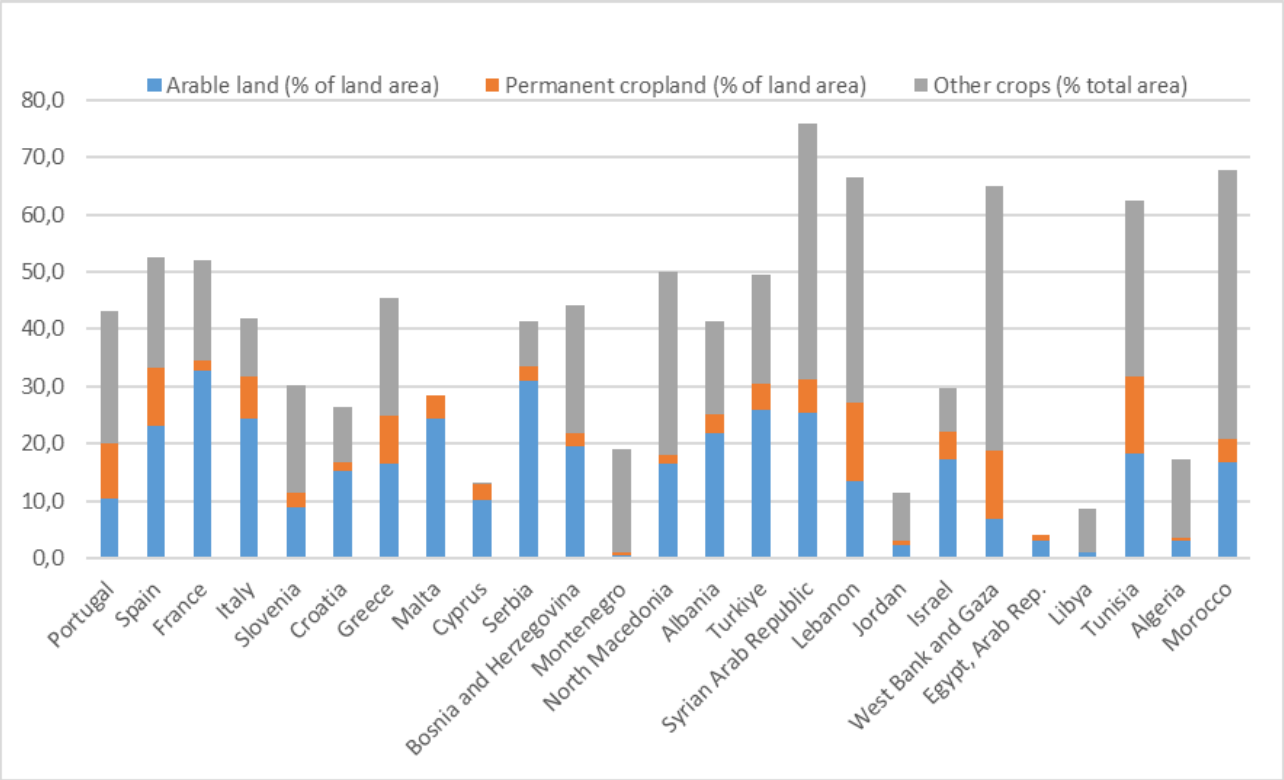
The Mediterranean region shows considerable differences in agricultural systems. While North African countries mainly focus on irrigated crops in response to arid climatic conditions, EU countries have implemented more sustainability-oriented policies, with an increase in ecological agricultural practices. This divergence requires customized approaches to address local challenges and promote a transition to more sustainable practices.

Agricultural areas

Compared to the total agricultural area of the region, consisting of about 2 million 430 sq. km., the largest share of agricultural land is held by the group of North African countries with over 40% (over 1 million sq. km.), while the European Union countries hold a little over 30%, the Middle East countries about 22% and finally the Western Balkan countries a minimal share (about 3%).

The highest incidence of agricultural land in relation to the total is occupied in the countries of the European Union by Spain and France (with more than 50%), Italy has a share of about 40%; in the Western Balkans, Serbia and Bosnia stand out with significant values of agricultural land in absolute terms and shares that exceed 40%; among the countries of the Middle East, Syria stands out with a very high share (about 76%) and Turkey has 49.5%; finally, among the countries of North Africa, Algeria - despite having the largest agricultural surface area in absolute terms among all the countries of the Mediterranean area - has a limited incidence with respect to its total surface area (17.3%), whereas Morocco, the third largest agricultural land in the region, also has a high share in relative terms (67.9%).

Figure 1 - Agricultural area by type of cultivation. 2021 *(% of total area)*



Source: FAO.

From a tendential perspective, over the last twenty years there has been substantial stability in the share of agricultural land in relation to the total area for almost all the main countries in the Mediterranean region; the countries with the most marked decreasing trends are Italy together with Spain, Greece, and West Bank and Gaza, those with increasing trends are Croatia and Lebanon.

In the EU countries, the most significant shares of arable crops and woody crops in relation to the land area are to be found in Spain and Italy (with the former fluctuating at just over 20% and the latter between 7% and 10%), while France has clearly dominant shares only in the case of arable crops, with the largest share in the Mediterranean region at over 30% (Figure 1). Within the Western Balkans macro-region, both Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as Albania have significant shares for arable crops (between 20% and 30%); among the countries belonging to the Middle East, Turkey and Syria have significant shares of arable crops, with about a quarter of the total area; finally, among the countries belonging to the northern shore of Africa there are Tunisia and Morocco with significant shares but less than 20%. For agricultural woody crops the

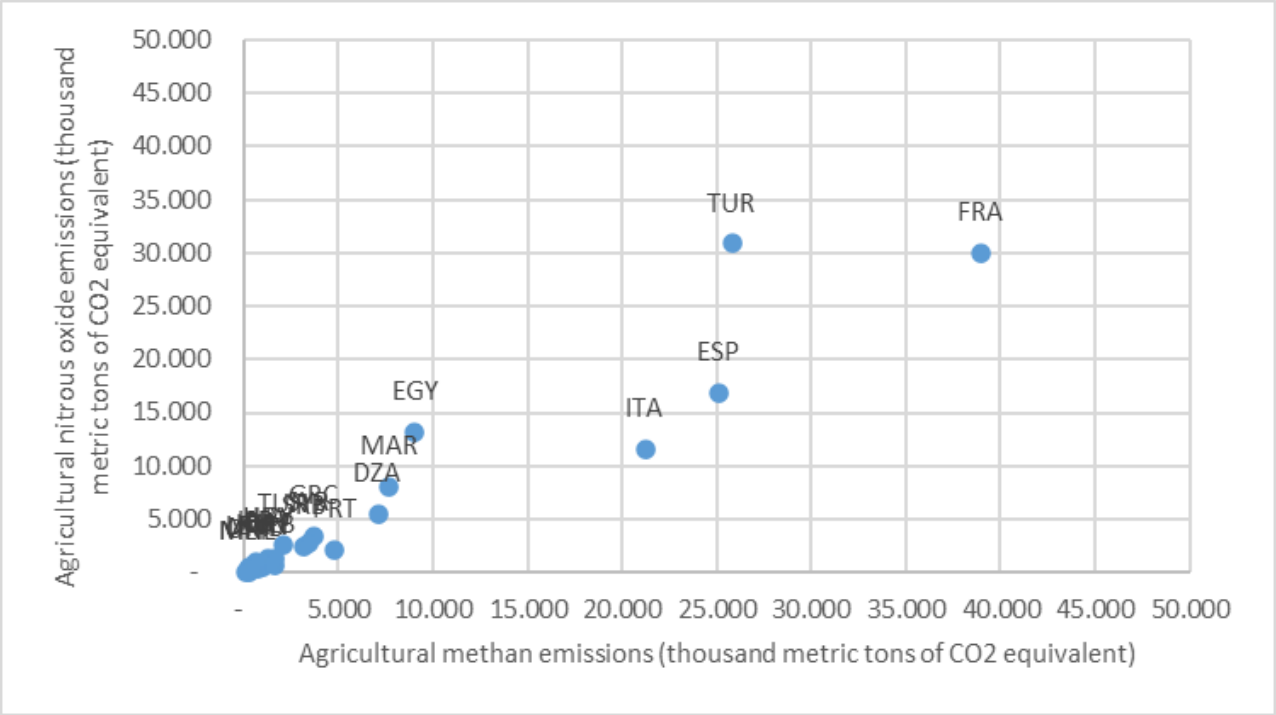
top three countries in the Mediterranean area are Lebanon, Tunisia, and West Bank and Gaza, with shares of more than 10% of the total area.

Sustainability in agriculture

To make an ecological transition, sustainable agriculture must ensure reduced pesticide and fertilizer use and contain greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. In the Mediterranean region, fertilizer consumption (per hectare of arable land) has been declining across the board since 2007 and 2008, but with different intensities in individual states and macro-regions. Among the countries of the European Union, except for Portugal, where an increase in the quantities of fertilizers is recorded during the twenty years, Spain shows a substantial stability, while France and Italy show a more virtuous behavior with a constant decrease in quantities: in particular, for France the decrease is from 227.7 in 2001 to 153.3 kg per hectare of cultivable surface in 2021 and for Italy from 168.6 to 133.2. Among the countries of the Western Balkans, Montenegro shows an appreciable adoption of fertilizers, increasing since 2013; among the countries of the Middle East, West Bank and Gaza consumes increasing and more sustained levels and Lebanon, on the other hand, reveals more virtuous behavior by significantly reducing its consumption over the two decades. Finally, Egypt is the North African country with the most critical values over the twenty-year period, averaging more than 500 kilos per hectare of arable land per year.

Like fertilizer consumption, the formation of emissions in agriculture is also a cause of greenhouse gases generated mainly by methane and nitrous oxide. In absolute terms, the countries with the highest values are generally the largest in the Mediterranean area, although with different dynamics (Figure 2). Within the European Union, France has methane values in 2021 close to 40,000 thousand tons (CO2 equivalent metric tons) and nitrous oxide values close to 30,000, both decreasing over the 20-year period. Italy and Spain together at lower levels show substantial stationarity for methane emission quantities and a slight decrease for nitrous oxide levels between 2001 and 2021. Among the Middle Eastern countries, Turkey records high values for both methane emissions, which are close to 26,000 thousand tons in 2021, and nitrous oxide emissions, which reach 30,000 thousand tons; in both cases, an increase of more than 50% compared to 2001. Finally, among the North African countries, it is Egypt that once again marks the most critical data for both types of emissions (about 10,000 thousand tons for methane in 2021 - in 2001 it was about 15,000 - and about 13,000 thousand tons for nitrous oxide in both 2001 and 2021).

Figure 2 - Methane and nitrous oxide emissions in agriculture (a) - 2021 (*thousands of metric tons CO2 equivalent)*



(a) 2020 Syrian Arab Republic

Source: World Resources Institute and World Bank Development Indicators for Syrian Arab Republic.

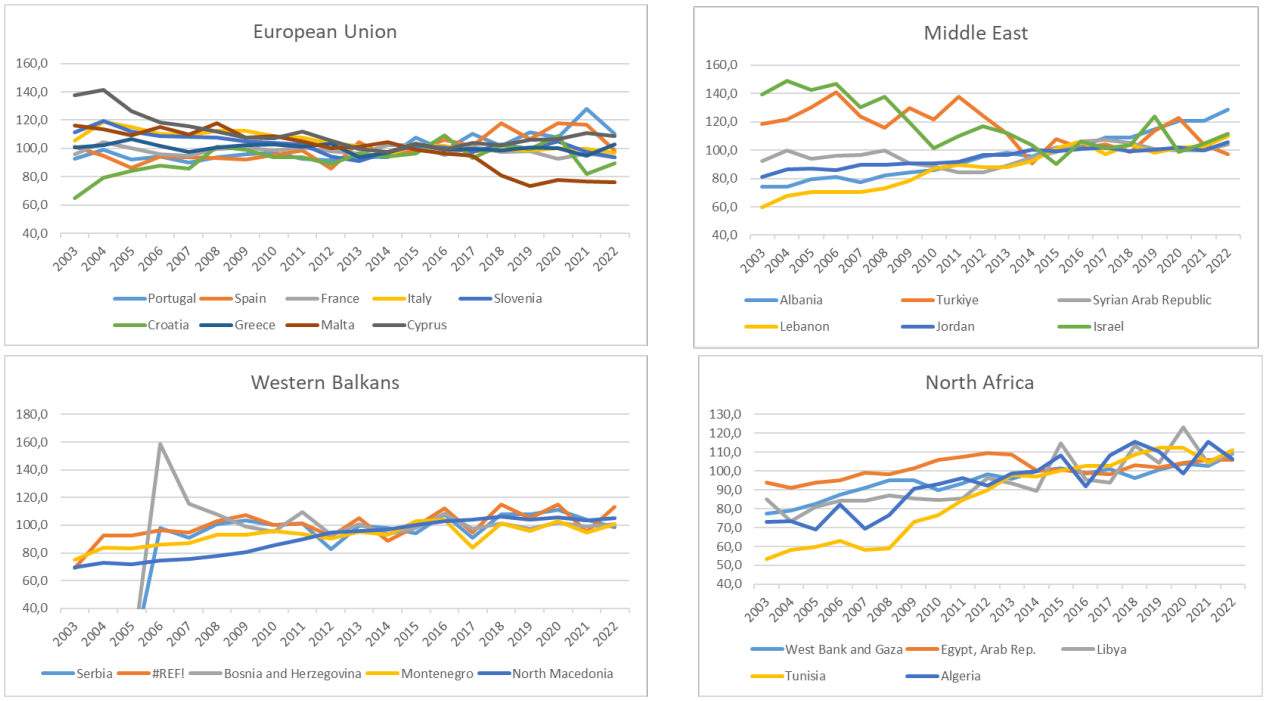
Food, crop, and animal production

The food production index calculated by the World Bank expresses the change in food production volumes (price-weighted quantities) compared to a base year period (2016-2014 =100). The change in the levels of this indicator is the result of political and economic choices and is also influenced by the development of technologies in the agricultural sector. In the countries of the European Union, decreasing dynamics prevail over the period 2001-2022, except for Portugal, Spain, and Croatia where there is a growth, with values rising between 2001 and 2022 respectively from 93.2 to 110.3, from 92.3 to 98.8 and from 76.3 to 89.5 (Figure 3). In contrast, the North Africa macro-region shows notably increasing trends for all countries, assigning growing importance to food production. The Middle East macro-region shows two discordant trends: while West Bank and Gaza has a decreasing trend (going from 124.1 to 111.8 over the period under review), the other countries show an increasing trend.

The crop production index within the EU countries shows a sustained growth especially for Portugal (which increases between 2001 and 2002 from 87.7 to 113.9); on the other hand, Malta, Cyprus, and Italy experience decreases in this indicator over the 20-year period. In the Western Balkans macro-region, there is an increase especially for Albania (which rises from 53.2 to 121.7); all the North African countries also show growing variations in the crop production index, mainly in Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco.

The livestock production index, on the other hand, shows rather fluctuating trends, with moderate variations in the EU countries (except for Spain and Croatia where there is a strong increase over the 20-year period) and growth for all the countries belonging to the Western Balkan macro-regions, the Middle East (except for West Bank and Gaza) and North Africa.

Figure 3 - Food production index by macro-region - 2003/2022 *(2014-2016 =100)*



Source: FAO.

INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY

OVERVIEW

	Indicators	Liner shipping connectivity index (average value in 2023 = 100)	Logistics performance index: Overall (1=low to 5=high)	Renewable energy consumption (% of total final energy consumption)
	Year	2023	2022 (a)	2021 (b)
EUROPEAN UNION	Portugal	182,7	3,4	32,3
	Spain	412,6	3,9	19,0
	France	269,7	3,9	16,2
	Italy	294,5	3,7	17,5
	Slovenia	75,2	3,3	23,4
	Croatia	61,1	3,3	34,1
	Greece	202,2	3,7	21,5
	Malta	135,8	3,3	8,6
	Cyprus	46,2	3,2	15,6
WEST BALKANS	Serbia	..	2,8	27,2
	Kosovo	..	..	..
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	..	3,0	36,6
	Montenegro	14,4	2,8	39,6
	North Macedonia	..	3,1	19,5
	Albania	13,2	2,5	41,9
MIDDLE EAST	Turkiye	284,5	3,4	12,0
	Syrian Arab Republic	26,0	2,3	1,1
	Lebanon	107,7	2,7	6,8
	Jordan	72,2	2,7	11,5
	Israel	135,2	3,6	6,2
	West Bank and Gaza	..	..	15,4
NORTH AFRICA	Egypt, Arab Rep.	265,5	3,1	6,1
	Libya	52,2	1,9	3,1
	Tunisia	29,4	2,6	11,6
	Algeria	68,6	2,5	0,1
	Morocco	253,0	2,5	10,9

(a) 2018 Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco
(b) 2022 West Bank and Gaza

(..) not available

Sources: *UNCTAD, World Bank.*

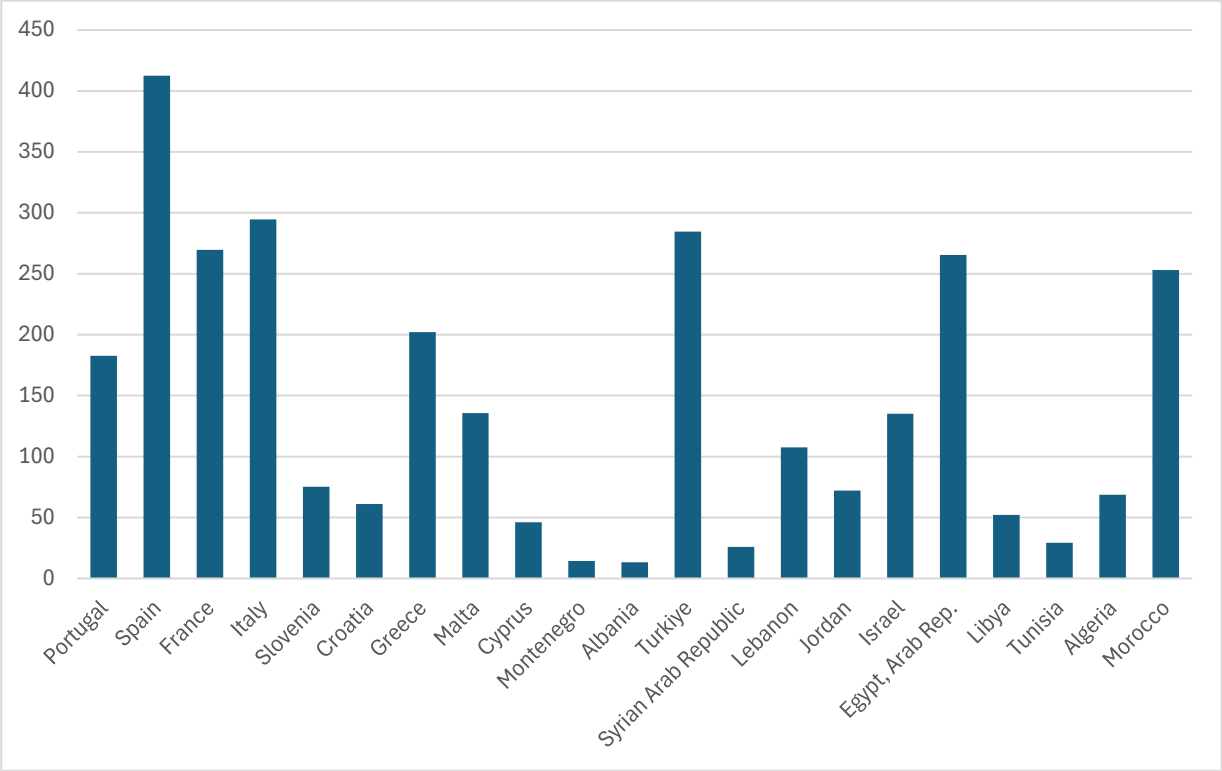
SOME HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS

Maritime connectivity

The Liner Shipping Connectivity Index (LSCI) is a composite indicator that summarizes the degree of integration of a country within the network of maritime transport lines. High levels of maritime connectivity allow for greater ability to access international markets and participate in global production networks. The indicator is constructed by setting the average value for countries served by regular containerized maritime transport lines as equal to 100 in 2023.

Spain is largely the country in the Mediterranean region with the highest maritime connectivity (412.6 index value in 2023, see Figure 1). In addition to Spain, six other countries show a value above 200, double the world average: Italy (294.5), France (269.7) and Greece (202.2) in the European Union, Turkey (284, 5) in the Middle East, Egypt (265.5) and Morocco (253) in North Africa. On average, EU countries present higher values of LSCI than those of other macro-areas, with six out of nine countries showing values of the index higher than the world average. Conversely, in the Western Balkans (2023 data available only for Montenegro and Albania) the degree of maritime integration is the lowest in the Mediterranean region, less than 15.

Figure 1 – Liner Shipping Connectivity Index in 2023 (average international value in the first quarter of 2023 = 100)

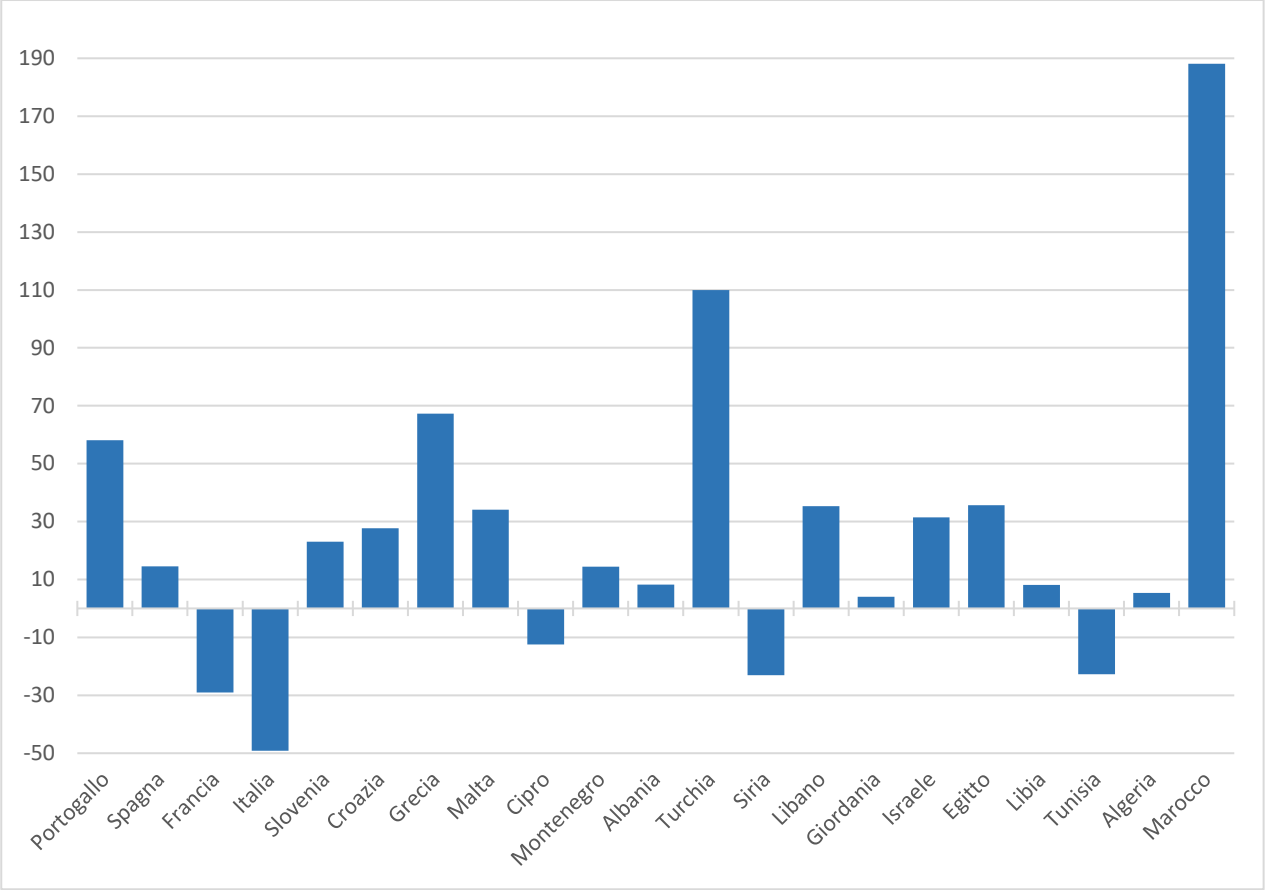


Source: UNCTAD.

The comparison with past values of LSCI allows us to grasp the evolution of Mediterranean countries' maritime connectivity and offers a different picture than what has just been highlighted. The improvement in maritime connectivity particularly concerned Turkey (+110 points compared to 2006) and above all Morocco (+188.1), with the value of the indicator in 2023 equal to almost 4 times that of 2006 (see Figure 2). Morocco has benefited from the strong growth in volumes of goods handled by the port of Tangier (Tanger Med), which has become one of the main hubs in the Mediterranean basin for containerized maritime transport.

As mentioned, EU countries record higher values than the others on average, however they show a less pronounced growth in the index and, for Italy (-49.1), France (-29) and Cyprus (-12.4), a decline in the degree of maritime connectivity.

Figure 2 – Liner Shipping Connectivity Index: variation between 2006 and 2023.



Note: Figure 2 shows only countries with data available as at 2023.
Source: WeMed elaboration on UNCTAD data.

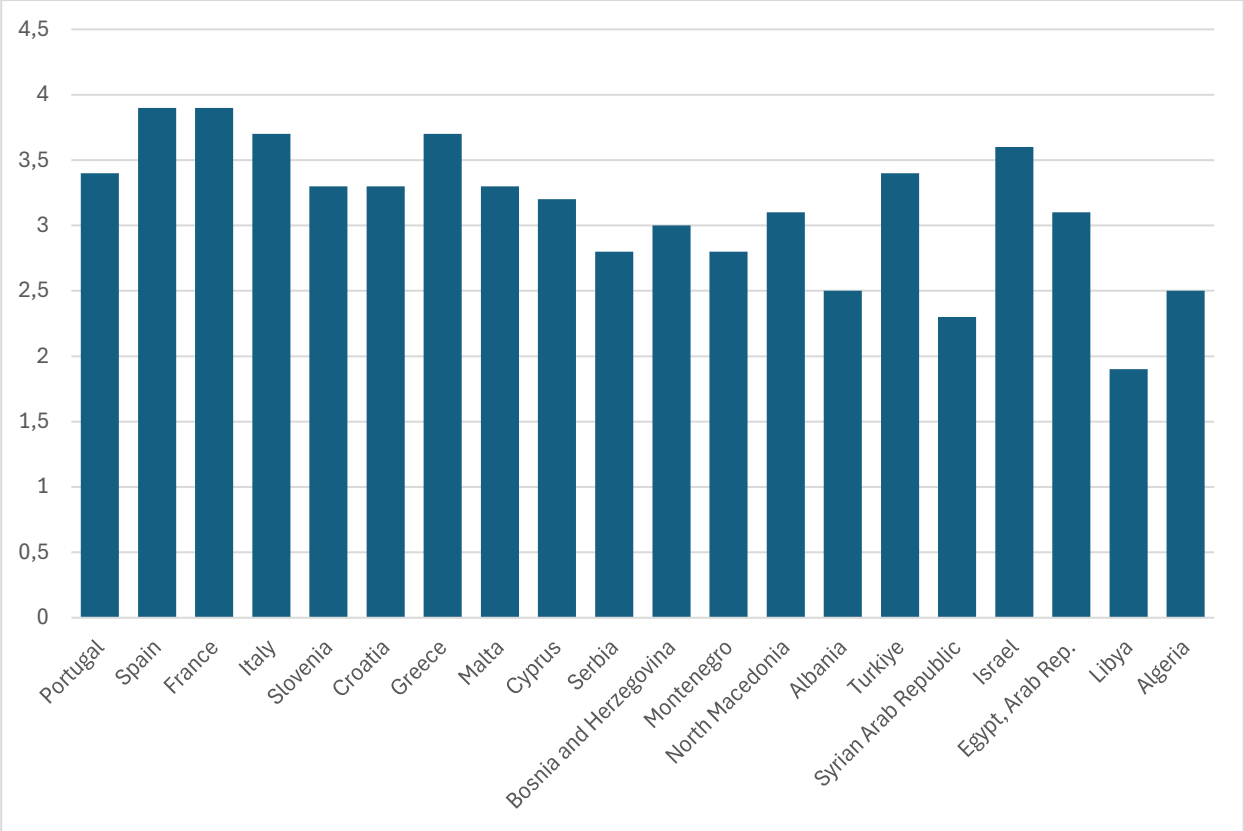
Logistics performance

The Logistics Performance Index (LPI) measures the efficiency, capacity and overall quality of a country's logistics system, through a composite index that examines six different aspects of logistics activity. The index ranges between 1 (low logistics performance) and 5 (high logistics performance).

Figure 3 refers to the value of the indicator in 2022 and highlights significantly better logistics performances for the European Union countries, none of which records values lower than 3.2. Spain (3.9), France (3.9), Italy (3.7) and Greece (3.7) show the highest values in the entire Mediterranean area.

In the Western Balkans the logistics performance index is between 2.5 in Albania and 3.1 in North Macedonia, while in the Middle Eastern region Turkey (3.4) and Israel (3.6) show values in line with EU countries. In North Africa, Egypt is the country with the best logistics performance (index equal to 3.1) also thanks to the complex infrastructure system serving the Suez Canal.

Figure 3 – Logistics Performance Index (from 1=low to 5=high)



Source: World Bank.

Renewable energy consumption

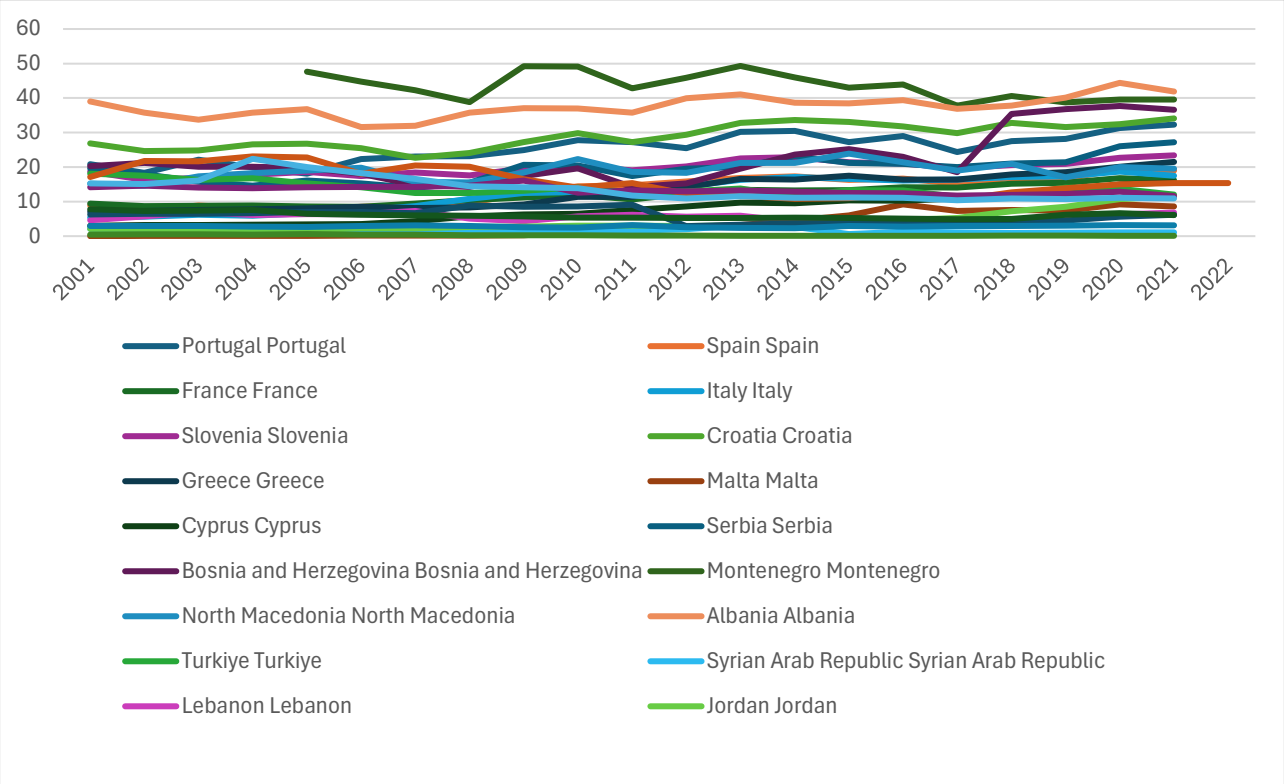
The picture of the use of renewable energy resources in the Mediterranean region is characterized by a marked difference between the northern shore (EU and Western Balkan countries) and the southern and south-eastern shore of the Basin (North Africa and the Middle East), see Figure 3.

More specifically, with reference to 2021, the share of energy consumption covered by renewable sources in European Union countries stands at between 15% and 35%; Malta is an exception: although growing in the period observed, the percentage does not reach 9%. Croatia (34.1%) and Portugal (32.3%) are the EU countries with the highest intensity of consumption of renewable sources out of total energy consumption. A common trait among EU countries is the constant growth profile of the use of renewable sources in the twenty years between 2001 and 2021. In the Western Balkans, the consumption of renewable energy is even more intense, with percentages of total energy consumption ranging between approximately 20% (North Macedonia) and 41.9% (Albania); However, unlike the constant growth in the EU countries, the evolution over time indicates constant shares throughout the observed period, except in Bosnia-Herzegovina where there was a surge in the use of renewable sources in 2018 (from 19 % in 2017 at 35.4%).

The situation is different in the Middle East and North Africa, where the share of renewable energy consumption reaches its maximum level in Palestine (15.4% in both 2021 and 2022). Clearly, the availability of abundant fossil resources in some countries on the southern and south-eastern coast discourages a more intense use of renewable sources. Furthermore, until 2015 in all Middle Eastern countries there was a general decline in the use of renewable sources, with a recovery in the following years, particularly intense only in Jordan (from 3.2% in 2015 to 11.5% in 2021), which in most cases does not allow a recovery to 2001 levels. In North Africa the use of renewable energy is low and decreasing. In Morocco and Tunisia, two North African countries without significant fossil resources, the share of renewables in total energy consumption is around

11% in 2021, down from 15% in 2001, while in Libya and Algeria the use of renewables is marginal in the first case (3.1%) and practically absent in Algeria (0.1% of total energy consumption).

Figure 4 – Renewable energy consumption (% of total final energy consumption)



Source: World Bank.

POPULATION AND GENDER

OVERVIEW

	INDICATORS	Population, female (% of total population)	Population ages 65 and above, female (% of female population)	Population ages 65 and above, male (% of male population)	Life expectancy at birth, female (years)	Life expectancy at birth, male (years)	Mortality rate, infant, female (per 1,000 live births)	Mortality rate, infant, male (per 1,000 live births)
	Year	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2021	2021
EUROPEAN UNION	Portugal	52,8	25,7	20,7	84,5	78,8	2,4	2,9
	Spain	51,0	22,9	18,5	85,9	80,4	2,3	2,8
	France	51,7	24,1	19,8	85,2	79,4	3,0	3,6
	Italy	51,1	26,3	21,6	84,8	80,6	2,3	2,8
	Slovenia	49,7	24,2	18,6	84,1	78,6	1,7	2,1
	Croatia	51,3	26,0	19,3	80,7	74,6	3,6	4,3
	Greece	51,1	24,7	21,6	83,3	78,1	3,1	3,6
	Malta	47,9	22,0	17,4	84,8	80,7	4,7	5,4
	Cyprus	49,9	16,4	14,0	83,7	80,1	2,5	2,9
WESTERN BALCANS	Serbia	52,1	24,1	16,5	78,1	73,0	4,1	5,1
	Kosovo	50,2	11,8	9,3	81,7	77,2	8,1	10,0
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	50,8	20,9	16,4	77,5	73,1	4,9	5,8
	Montenegro	51,3	19,4	14,3	78,8	73,7	2,3	2,5
	North Macedonia	50,2	17,0	13,2	76,7	72,2	4,2	5,0
	Albania	50,2	17,8	16,4	79,5	74,5	7,5	9,2
MIDDLE EAST	Turkiye	49,9	10,4	7,5	81,5	75,4	8,0	9,2
	Syrian Arab Republic	49,9	5,4	4,1	76,1	68,7	16,2	19,9
	Lebanon	51,5	11,3	9,2	76,6	72,2	13,2	15,0
	Jordan	48,2	4,3	3,7	76,7	72,1	11,3	13,8
	Israel	50,1	13,4	10,9	84,8	80,7	2,5	3,0
	West Bank and Gaza	50,1	4,0	3,2	75,9	71,0	11,7	13,8
NORTH AFRICA	Egypt, Arab Rep.	49,4	5,7	4,1	72,6	67,9	14,8	17,2
	Libya	49,4	5,6	4,4	74,8	69,7	8,2	10,1
	Tunisia	50,7	10,1	8,6	77,4	71,4	9,6	11,5
	Algeria	49,1	7,0	6,2	78,5	75,9	17,5	20,7
	Morocco	49,7	8,5	7,5	77,2	72,9	13,7	16,9

Source: World Bank Development Indicators based on UN Population Division and national sources; UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation; Istat.

SOME HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS

Demographic structure

The gender composition of the population in the Mediterranean region, calculated through the feminisation rate, shows a prevalence of the female component (over 50%) in all the countries of the Western Balkans and in the majority of those of the European Union, contrary to what is evident in the non-European macro-regions. This indicator is clearly affected by the dynamics of complex phenomena such as gender differences in migratory movements and population longevity. The highest value across the Mediterranean arc concerns Portugal (52.8%), the lowest Malta (47.9%).

When comparing the age structure of the female and male population, the age group where gender differences are generally emphasised is that of 65 years and over. In all countries the share of the elderly in the respective population is higher for the female component than for the male component. The territorial differences concern the size of these deviations. The highest values - more than 5 percentage points difference between the shares of the elderly in the female and male population - are in Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Montenegro. The value is quite similar in Italy (4.6 points of difference), which is the Mediterranean country with the highest incidence of the elderly in the population for both women and men (26.3% and 21.6% respectively). The two indicators show smaller differences in the Middle East and North Africa, in the presence of an overall very limited incidence of the elderly population on the total population.

Life expectancy

Life expectancy at birth, calculated from mortality levels by age group in a given year, represents the average number of years an infant is expected to live if mortality patterns at the time of its birth remain constant in

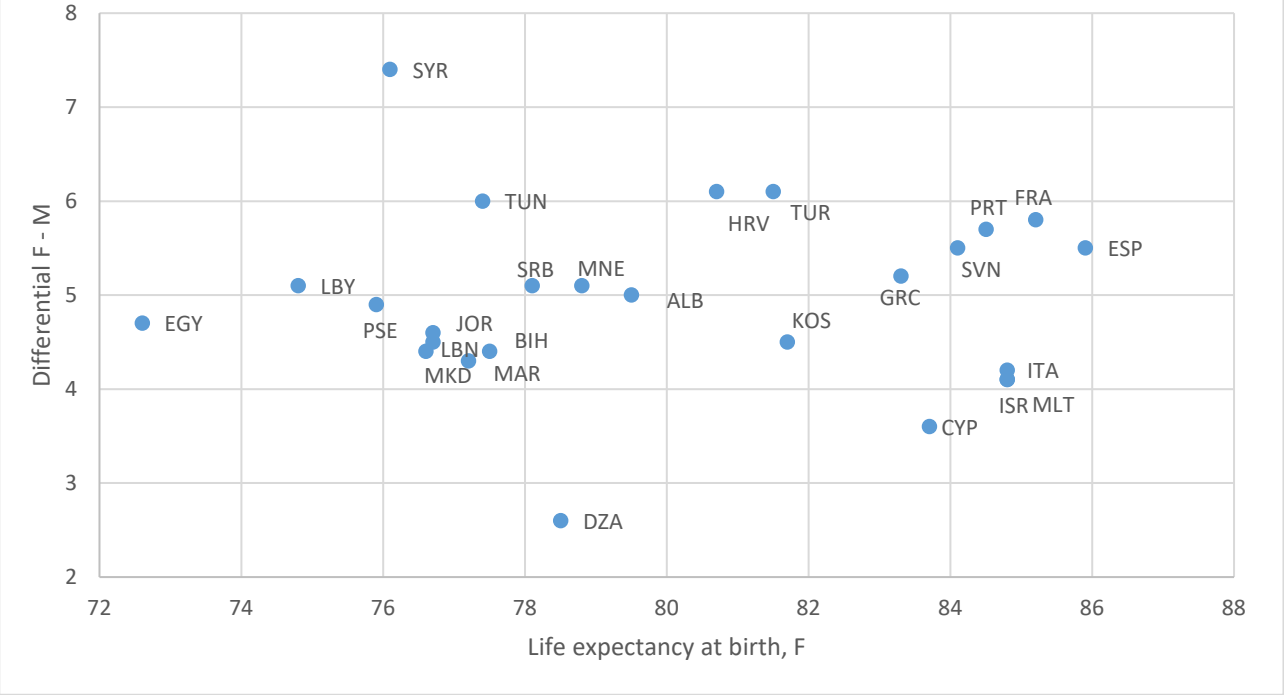
the future. Therefore, it is considered as a measure of the longevity of a population, which naturally differs between males and females in relation to different mortality patterns.

The gender analysis indicates the presence of gaps between the countries belonging to the four macro-regions that largely follow those highlighted for the total population (see chapter 'Population and Society/Population'). Moreover, all countries in the Mediterranean region show a more favourable level of life expectancy for the female component (Figure 1).

In 2022, the nine countries with the most favourable values in female life expectancy are the same as those found for the indicator referring to the population as a whole: eight EU countries (with the exception of Croatia), plus Israel. As in the case of the total population, the highest value for women is that of Spain (85.9 years), in contrast to the male component, where the highest values are those of Malta, Israel and Italy (between 80.7 and 80.6 years). The gender differences in favour of women are smaller for these three countries and Cyprus, larger especially for France and Portugal.

Then there is a second group of countries, in which women's life expectancy exceeds 80 years, including Kosovo, Turkey and Croatia, and then another one with values between 77 and 80 years, where the countries of the Western Balkans show levels similar to those of some in the Middle East and North Africa; in these clusters, the gender differentials are widest for Turkey, Croatia and Tunisia, very small for Algeria. Finally, there are countries that show a more critical picture, such as a minimum value of female life expectancy in Egypt (72.6 years) and the maximum female/male gap for Syria, a country which went through the war events of the last decade.

Figure 1 - Female life expectancy at birth and differential to male life expectancy at birth. Year 2022 *(life years)*



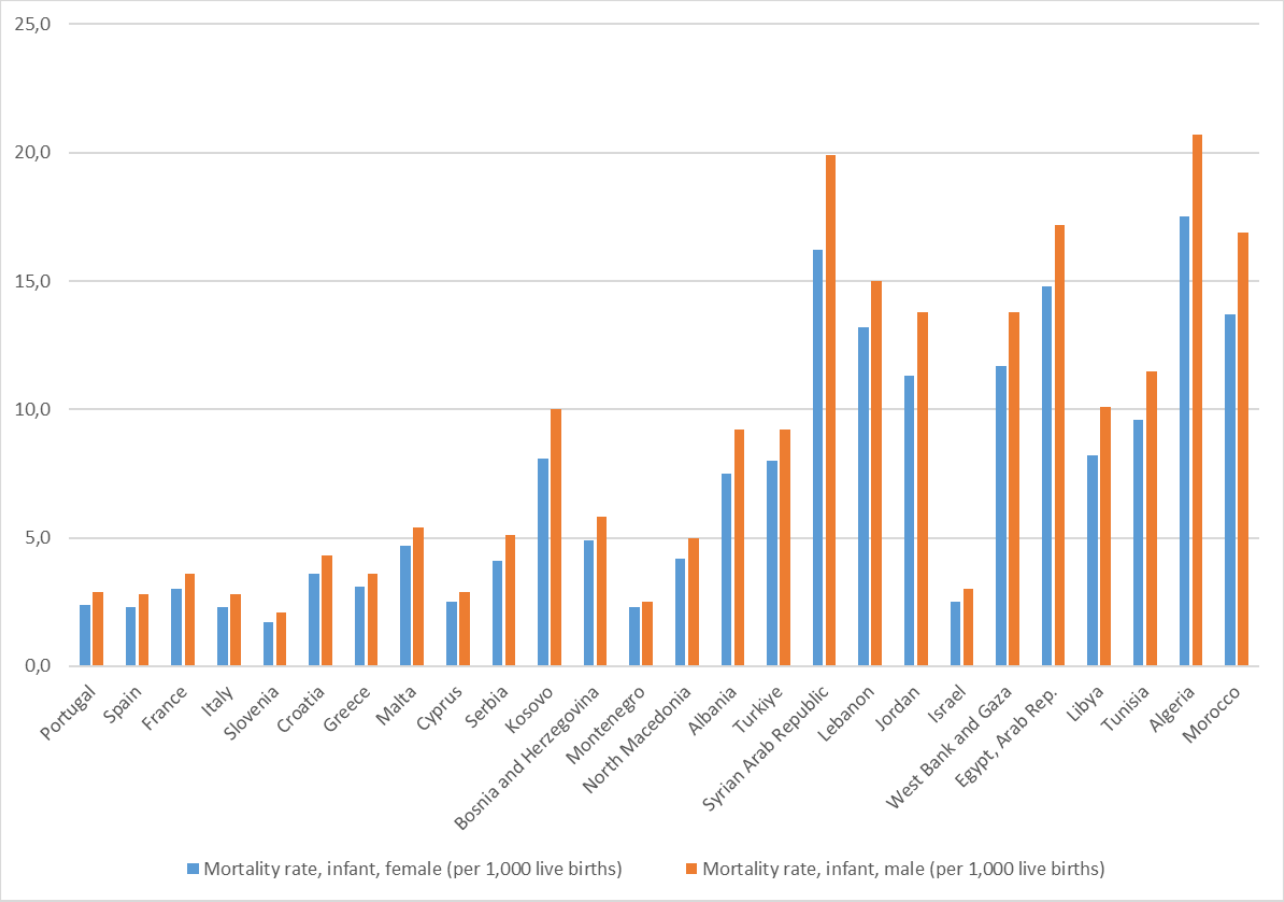
Source: World Bank Development Indicators based on UN Population Division and national sources; Istat

Infant mortality

A further implication emerges from the gender analysis of child mortality rates, for a phenomenon that is strongly correlated with the different levels of socio-economic development in the Mediterranean area (see

chapter 'Population and Society/Population'). In fact, the gender comparison is less unfavourable for the female component in all the 26 countries considered (Figure 2). The differences are, of course, more pronounced in the countries with the greatest health problems in this indicator, and especially in Syria, Algeria and Morocco. At the other extreme, there are minimal differences for countries with the lowest levels of child mortality for both sexes: the EU countries, Serbia, Montenegro and Israel.

Figure 2 - Infant mortality rates by gender. Year 2021 *(per 1,000 live births)*



Source: UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation; Istat.

LABOR AND GENDER

OVERVIEW

	INDICATORS	Labor force participation rate for ages 15-24		Labor force participation rate for ages 15-64		Employment to population ratio ages, 15-24		Employment to population ratio, 15+		Unemployment, 15+		Contributing family workers		Self-employed		Wage and salaried workers		Employers		Employment in agriculture		Employment in industry		Employment in services	
	Year	2023 (a)		2022		2023 (a)		2023 (a)		2023 (a)		2022		2022		2022		2022		2022		2022		2022	
	Gender	F (%)	M (%)	F (%)	M (%)	F (%)	M (%)	F (%)	M (%)	F (%)	M (%)	F (% of female employm.)	M (% of male employm.)	F (% of female employm.)	M (% of male employm)	F (% of female employm.)	M (% of male employm)	F (% of female employm.)	M (% of male employm)	F (% of female employm.)	M (% of male employm)	F (% of female employm.)	M (% of male employm)	F (% of female employm.)	M (% of male employm)
EUROPEAN UNION	Portugal	33,6	37,2	74,4	78,5	27,3	30,3	51,5	59,8	6,9	6,1	0,6	0,7	11,5	18,7	88,5	81,3	2,9	7,3	3,2	6,8	15,5	32,3	81,3	60,8
	Spain	30,9	34,8	69,9	78,3	21,7	25,3	45,3	56,2	13,9	10,6	0,4	0,3	11,7	18,4	88,3	81,6	3,3	6,1	1,9	5,4	9,4	29,1	88,7	65,4
	France	40,9	44,6	71,8	76,9	35,1	37,0	49,2	55,7	7,2	7,5	0,4	0,3	10,0	16,0	90,0	84,0	3,0	7,0	1,6	3,6	9,8	28,3	88,6	68,1
	Italy	21,6	30,8	56,4	74,6	16,2	24,3	37,9	54,8	8,8	6,8	1,2	0,7	16,1	25,5	83,9	74,5	3,8	8,0	2,3	4,8	14,0	36,2	83,6	58,9
	Slovenia	32,2	40,2	74,0	79,0	29,6	36,5	51,9	61,0	3,7	3,6	2,3	1,7	9,8	17,5	90,2	82,5	1,7	4,6	3,9	4,7	17,1	41,2	79,0	54,1
	Croatia	24,2	36,4	65,4	73,1	18,5	30,3	44,5	54,5	6,6	5,6	1,4	1,0	9,4	16,9	90,6	83,1	3,5	7,2	4,0	7,5	15,7	39,1	80,3	53,4
	Greece	22,9	26,6	61,2	76,3	16,1	20,8	38,8	54,2	14,2	8,4	3,7	1,8	31,0	41,7	69,0	58,3	4,8	8,8	9,8	12,2	7,8	21,3	82,4	66,5
	Malta	53,1	55,2	72,7	85,9	50,9	48,3	55,5	70,9	3,0	3,2	0,1	0,0	9,0	19,4	91,0	80,6	2,0	5,6	0,3	1,2	7,6	24,0	92,1	74,8
	Cyprus	42,0	45,2	72,1	81,3	35,8	36,5	56,3	66,0	5,9	6,0	0,5	0,8	9,1	12,4	90,9	87,6	1,2	2,2	0,9	3,6	7,2	25,4	91,9	71,0
WESTERN BALKANS	Serbia	24,8	38,5	66,9	79,6	20,3	29,4	47,0	62,5	9,0	8,4	8,4	2,9	23,4	29,9	76,6	70,1	2,0	4,1	11,5	15,3	19,3	37,3	69,2	47,4
	Kosovo	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	20,4	36,8	50,4	72,5	13,0	27,1	34,7	53,9	12,5	9,0	5,0	1,3	25,7	24,2	74,3	75,8	4,2	7,0	19,3	15,3	17,7	43,9	63,0	40,8
	Montenegro	26,3	36,2	61,5	74,9	19,6	26,0	42,5	54,7	14,7	15,7	3,2	1,6	15,3	25,9	84,7	74,1	2,6	5,1	5,8	8,3	7,5	27,8	86,7	63,9
	North Macedonia	20,4	35,6	52,2	75,0	14,0	26,7	37,3	54,3	11,7	14,0	4,8	1,9	12,3	19,5	87,7	80,5	2,4	5,2	8,0	10,9	25,5	33,8	66,5	55,3
	Albania	27,5	40,0	63,4	79,3	20,4	28,9	47,0	60,1	11,4	11,7	27,1	15,6	50,4	54,7	49,6	45,3	1,2	4,5	39,8	31,0	16,8	25,1	43,4	43,9
MIDDLE EAST	Turkey	31,3	56,1	39,4	76,6	23,9	47,8	30,9	65,7	12,1	8,1	19,4	4,2	30,3	29,4	69,7	70,6	1,9	5,8	21,8	14,2	17,6	32,5	60,6	53,2
	Syrian Arab Republic	7,9	39,1	14,9	65,7	3,7	27,6	10,6	56,7	25,3	10,9	2,2	0,7	8,7	41,9	91,3	58,1	0,4	1,5	10,0	16,5	6,0	25,8	84,0	57,7
	Lebanon	25,7	44,6	31,3	71,1	19,9	33,6	23,4	58,8	14,7	10,1	1,7	0,5	17,1	35,4	82,9	64,6	3,8	10,8	1,4	4,4	6,4	26,6	92,2	69,0
	Jordan	10,1	41,5	14,5	65,8	5,0	25,1	10,4	51,7	26,6	16,2	0,2	0,4	3,6	13,1	96,4	86,9	0,9	3,5	0,6	3,6	7,2	20,2	92,2	76,1
	Israel	47,3	47,9	71,2	75,5	44,6	45,1	58,9	66,4	3,3	3,4	0,0	0,0	8,6	14,0	91,4	86,0	1,3	4,7	0,4	1,1	7,4	23,4	92,2	75,5
	West Bank and Gaza	10,8	50,7			4,7	34,7	11,3	57,4	40,0	20,2	7,7	2,9	22,9	24,0	77,1	76,0	2,0	6,1	6,3	6,2	9,6	37,3	84,2	56,5
NORTH AFRICA	Egypt, Arab republic	8,6	38,8	17,5	74,4	5,4	34,5	14,2	68,0	17,9	4,9	17,7	2,4	29,0	27,1	71,0	72,9	1,2	4,0	18,1	18,8	8,0	32,6	73,9	48,7
	Libya	10,8	23,2	37,0	64,3	3,5	13,8	26,2	52,1	24,7	15,4	1,4	0,8	10,0	17,2	90,0	82,8	1,2	2,1	5,4	11,1	11,3	28,4	83,2	60,5
	Tunisia	18,4	38,2	29,9	75,6	10,9	22,8	19,8	59,2	20,5	12,9	2,1	1,4	14,0	29,3	86,0	70,7	2,1	5,6	8,8	15,8	31,7	34,0	59,5	50,2
	Algeria	8,6	37,3	18,0	72,0	4,6	26,9	13,2	60,3	20,7	9,6	2,0	1,6	26,0	32,1	74,0	67,9	1,8	4,4	3,4	11,0	23,6	32,4	73,0	56,6
	Morocco	12,6	40,0	21,2	73,8	9,6	30,7	17,6	61,9	10,7	8,6	35,0	8,7	54,7	46,3	45,3	53,7	0,8	2,6	48,2	25,9	13,8	26,8	38,0	47,3

(..) Data not available
(a) Data 2022 for West Bank and Gaza
Source: International Labour Organization (ILO) and Istat.

SOME HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS

Gender issues in the labour market are a key challenge for equality and sustainable growth in the Mediterranean countries. Despite inclusive legislation and policies, inequalities between men and women persist in terms of participation, wages, career advancement and working conditions.

Labour Market Participation

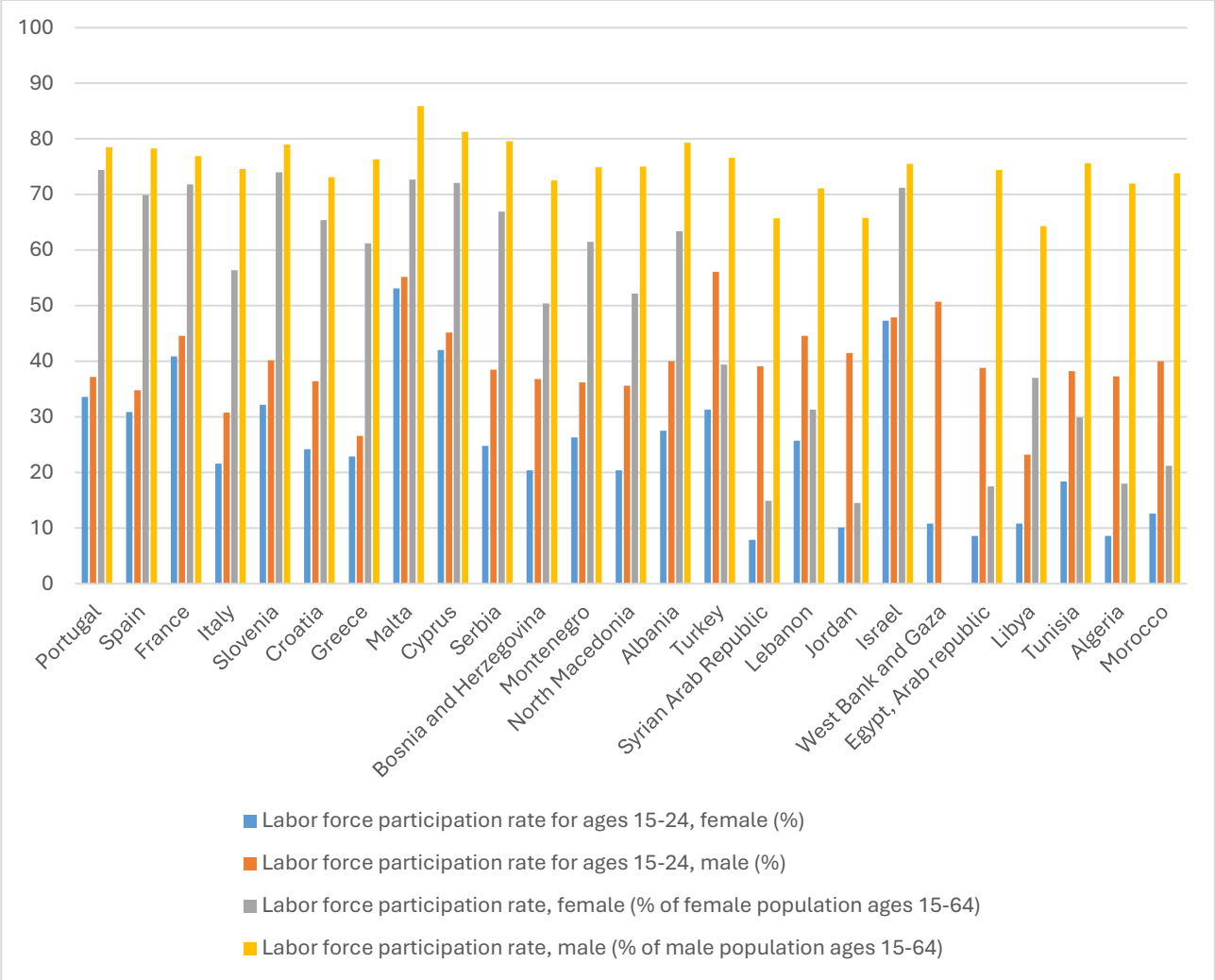
In the Mediterranean countries, gender differences in female activity rates are marked and vary significantly. In the European Union, female participation is relatively high but remains lower than that of men. In Spain, for example, the activity rate for adult women is 69.9%, compared to 78.3% for men, while in Italy the gap is more pronounced, with 56.4% of women active compared to 74.6% of men.

In the Western Balkans, the gaps are also evident. In Serbia, only 24.8 per cent of young women (15-24 years) are active compared to 38.5 per cent of men, and in the entire working-age population (15-64 years), the female rate is 66.9 per cent compared to 79.6 per cent for men. In Montenegro and Albania, the rates show a similar situation, with women less represented in the labour market.

In the Middle East, the gaps are among the widest: in Jordan and Lebanon, the female activity rate is drastically low compared to the male rate, with 14.5% of active adult women in Jordan compared to 65.8% of men. Israel is an exception, with female participation closer to that of men.

In North Africa, female activity rates are the lowest in the region. In Algeria and Tunisia, adult women show rates of around 18-30%, compared to over 70% for men. These gaps, strongly linked to cultural barriers and the lack of structural supports, limit women's access to the labour market.

Figure 1 - Activity rates in ages 15-24 and 15-64 by gender. Year 2023* *(%)*



**2022: West Bank and Gaza*

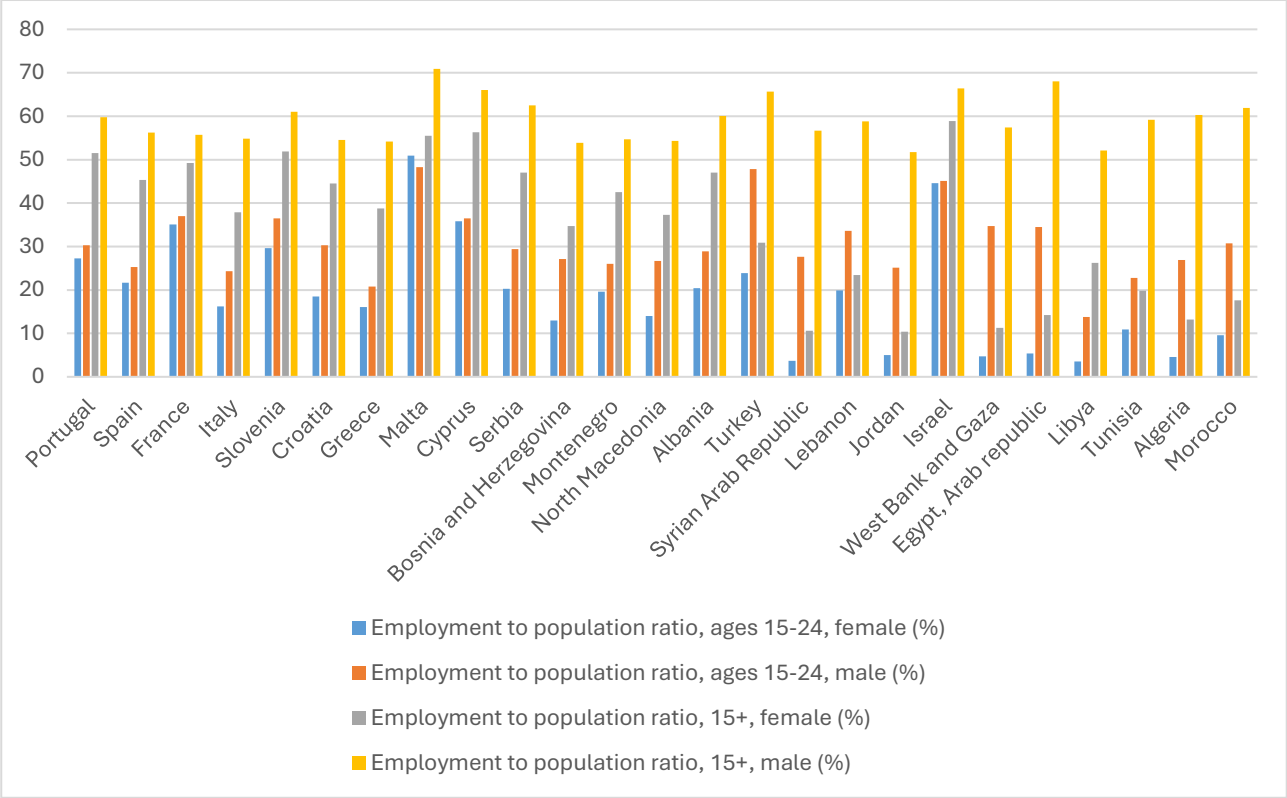
Source: International Labour Organization (ILO) and Istat.

The 2023 data also show significant gender disparities in employment rates, with the gaps most marked in North Africa and the Middle East. In Algeria and Egypt, for example, the employment rate among young women is extremely low, at 4.6 per cent and 5.4 per cent respectively, compared to 26.9 per cent and 34.5 per cent for men. Across all working age groups, only 13.2% of Algerian women and 14.2% of Egyptian women are employed, compared to over 60% of men in both countries.

In Jordan, the employment rate of young women is just 5%, compared to 25.1% of young men, while overall the is 10.4% compared to 51.7% of men. In Palestine and Lebanon, employed women also remain significantly less than men. In the Western Balkans, the situation is similar but less extreme: in Serbia, the female employment rate is 47% in the 15-64 age group, against 62.5% for men.

In EU countries, the gaps are less pronounced but still present. In Italy, for example, only 37.9 per cent of adult women are employed compared to 54.8 per cent of men, while in Spain the rates are closer, with 21.7 per cent of young women employed compared to 25.3 per cent of men. These figures reflect cultural barriers and a lack of support structures for female employment, particularly in the North African and Middle Eastern regions.

Figure 2 - Employment rates in age 15-24 and 15 years and over by gender. Year 2023* *(%)*



** 2022: West Bank and Gaza*

Source: International Labour Organization (ILO) e Istat.

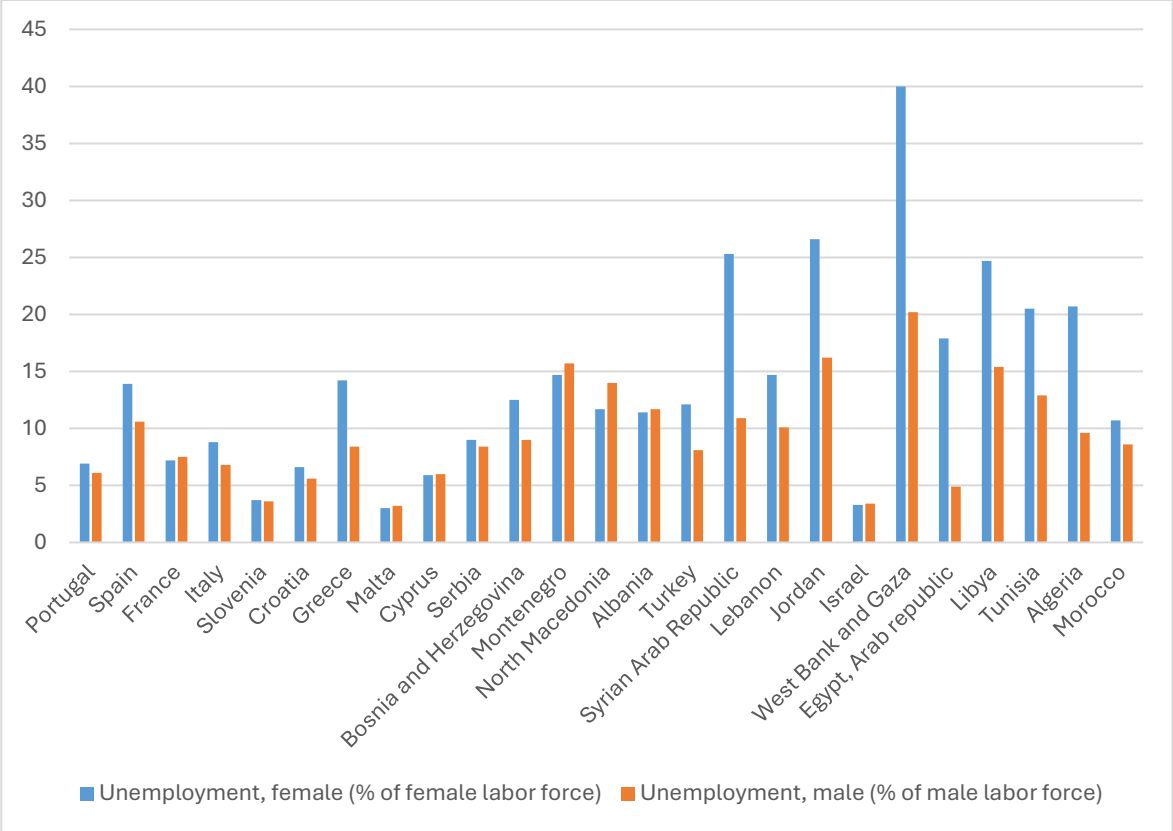
The analysis of 2023 unemployment rates in the Mediterranean countries reveals marked gender differences, with female unemployment levels generally higher than male unemployment levels. In Middle Eastern and North African countries, these inequalities are particularly pronounced due to socio-cultural barriers and limited job opportunities for women. In Jordan, for example, the unemployment rate for women is 26.6 per cent compared to 16.2 per cent for men, while in Palestine the gap is even wider: 40 per cent of women are unemployed, compared to 20.2 per cent of men.

In North Africa, women face very high unemployment rates. In Egypt, the unemployment rate for women is 17.9%, compared to only 4.9% for men. In Algeria and Tunisia, female unemployment exceeds 20%, while male unemployment remains below 13%.

In European countries, the gaps are less extreme but still present. In Spain, the female unemployment rate is 13.9 per cent compared to 10.6 per cent for men, while in Italy, women record a rate of 8.8 per cent compared to 6.8 per cent for men. France is an exception, with male unemployment (7.5%) slightly higher than female unemployment (7.2%).

In the Western Balkans, disparities vary. In Montenegro, the male unemployment rate (15.7 per cent) exceeds that of women (14.7 per cent), while in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, women have higher unemployment rates. These figures reflect the gender segmentation in the labour market and women's difficulties in gaining access to stable, well-paid positions.

Figure 3 - Unemployment rate by gender. Year 2023* *(%)*



** 2022: West Bank and Gaza*

Source: International Labour Organization (ILO) and Istat.

Occupational segmentation and occupational segregation

Men and women often concentrate in different sectors and occupations. Women tend to be more present in low-paid sectors (e.g. social and care services), while men are over-represented in areas such as technology, engineering and finance.

The 2022 analysis shows a gender gap between salaried and self-employed workers in the Mediterranean. Women are predominantly employed in salaried jobs, especially in Southern Europe. In Italy, 83.9 per cent of women are wage-earners compared to 74.5 per cent of men, while in Spain and Portugal more than 88 per cent of women work as employees, compared to about 81 per cent of men.

In the Western Balkans, the difference is less pronounced: in Bosnia and Herzegovina, self-employment is almost equal between the genders, while in Serbia and Montenegro, self-employment rates are higher among men.

In the Middle East, the disparity is more pronounced. In Lebanon, 35.4 per cent of men are self-employed compared to 17.1 per cent of women, while in Jordan, 96.4 per cent of women are salaried, underlining the concentration of women in salaried work.

In North Africa, the differences are pronounced in Tunisia and Algeria. In Morocco, however, 54.7% of women are self-employed, one of the highest percentages in the region, indicating their role in the informal sector. These data reflect cultural and structural barriers that hinder women's access to self-employment, underlining the need for inclusive policies to foster female entrepreneurship.

Figure 4a - Self-employed and wage-earners by gender. Year 2022 (% of female employment)

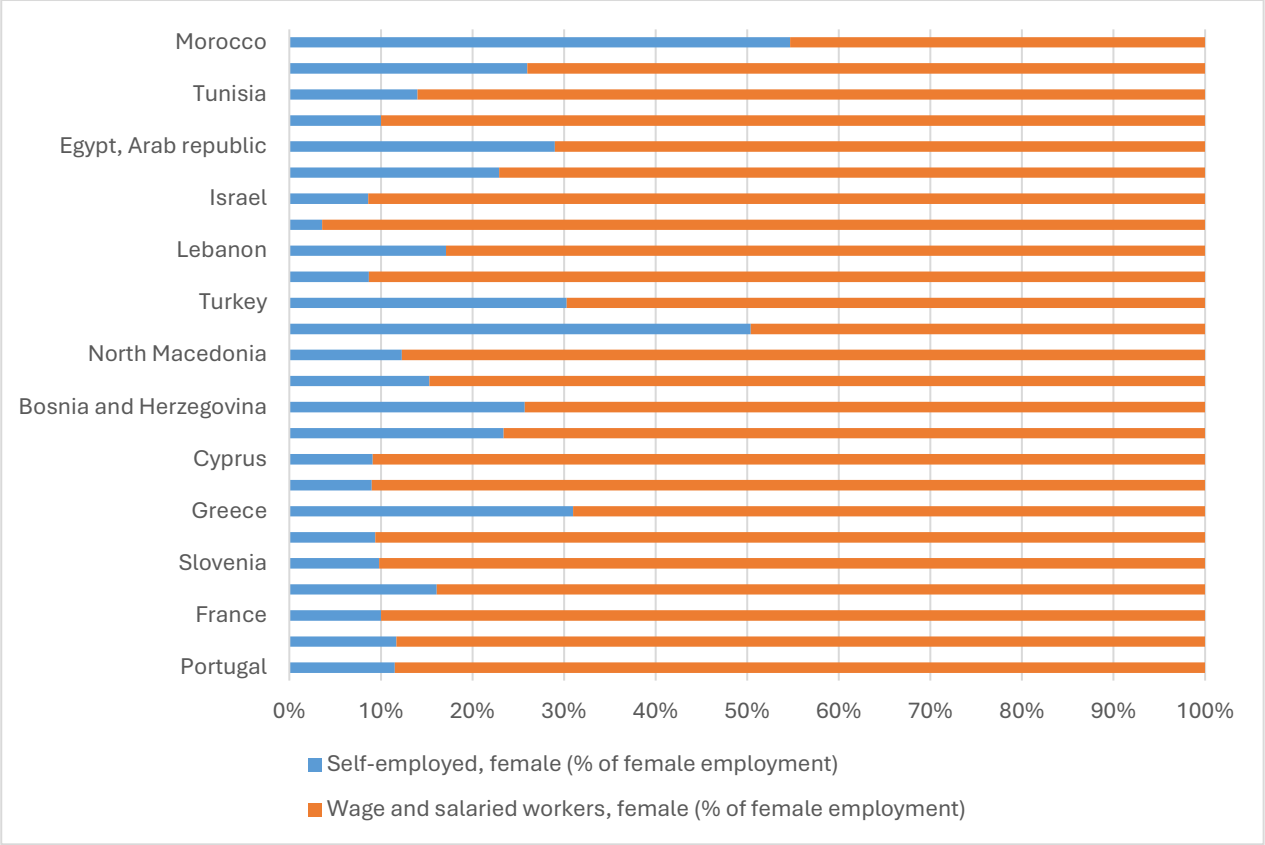
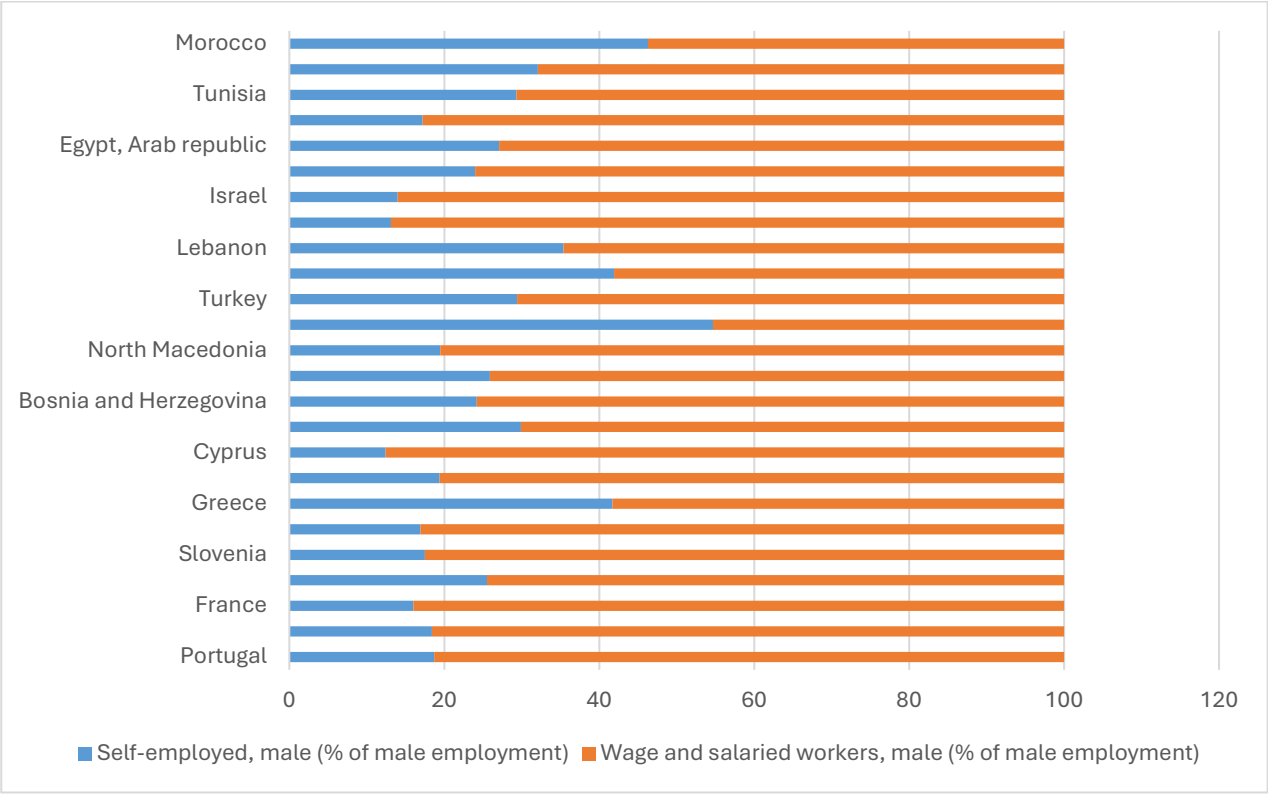


Figure 4b - Self-employed and wage-earners by gender. Year 2022 (% of male employment)



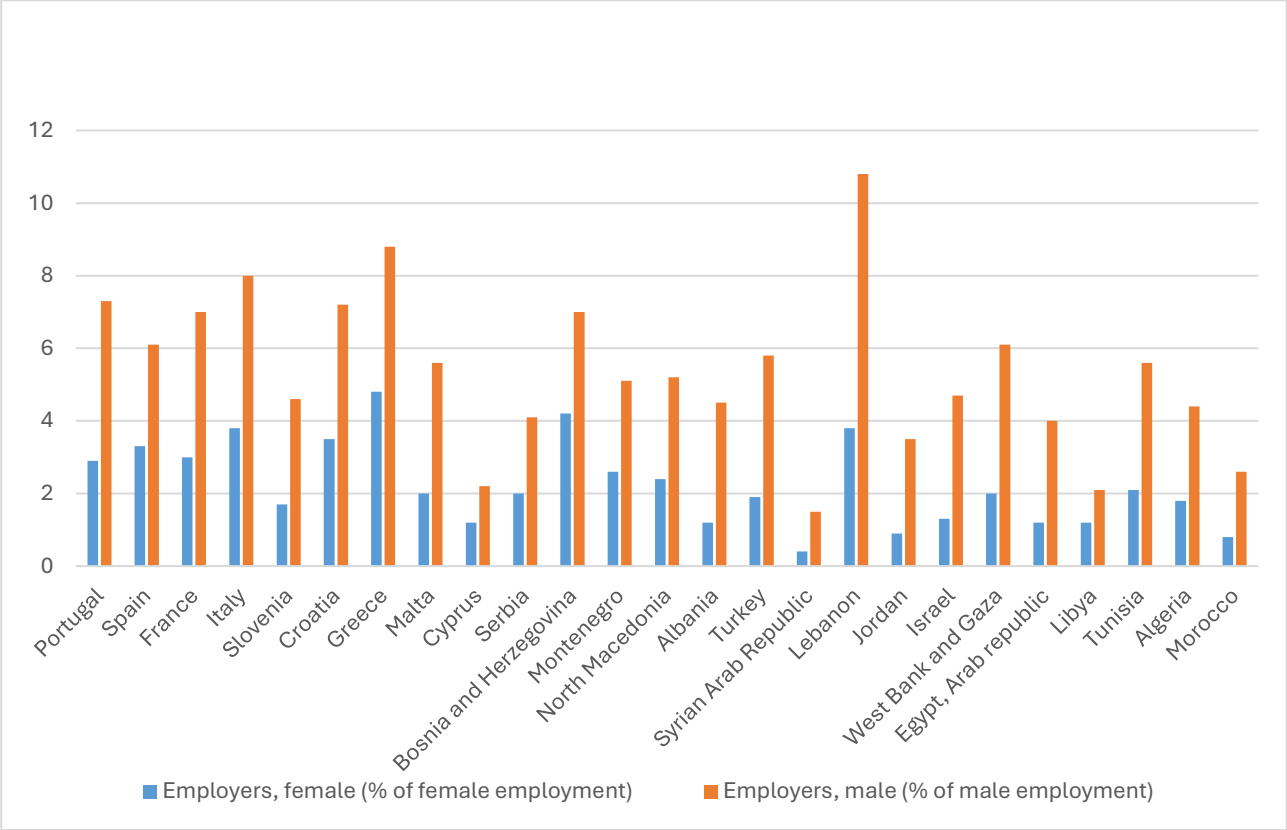
Source: International Labour Organization (ILO).

The analysis of 2022 data on employers in the Mediterranean countries reveals strong gender disparities in entrepreneurial positions, with a marked male dominance. In EU countries, such as Italy and Greece, women occupy a significantly lower percentage of leadership roles than men: in Italy, 3.8% of employed women are entrepreneurs compared to 8% of men, while in Greece the disparity is similar (4.8% versus 8.8%).

In the Western Balkans, women account for less than half as many employers as men. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, for example, only 4.2% of women are entrepreneurs compared to 7% of men.

The disparity is even greater in the Middle East and North Africa: in Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine, women entrepreneurs are under 4%, while in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia they are a small minority (up to 0.8% in Morocco). These figures highlight deep-seated cultural and social barriers that limit women's access to leadership and entrepreneurship roles in the region.

Figure 5 - Employers by gender. Year 2022 (% of female and male employment)



Source: International Labour Organization (ILO).

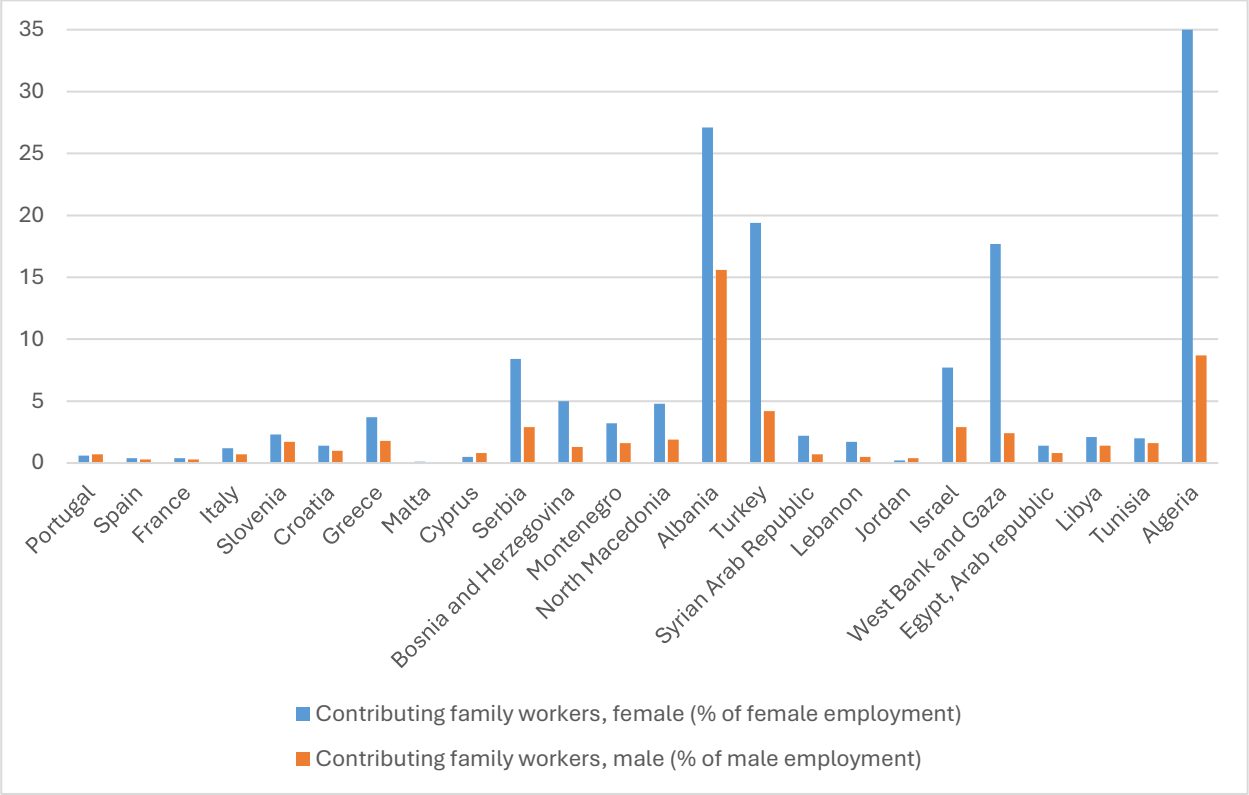
The analysis of data on family workers in the Mediterranean confirms a marked gender segregation, with women more present in less remunerative and subordinate roles. In European countries, such as Spain and France, there are few family workers for both sexes. In Italy and Greece, the gap widens: in Italy, 1.2% of women hold this role, compared to 0.7% of men, and in Greece, 3.7% compared to 1.8% respectively.

In the Western Balkans, the disparities are more pronounced. In Serbia, 8.4% of women are family workers, compared to 2.9% of men. Similar percentages are observed in Bosnia-Herzegovina and North Macedonia.

In the Middle East and North Africa, the percentages of women in these roles are even higher. In Palestine and Egypt, women family workers account for 7.7 per cent and 17.7 per cent respectively,

while in Morocco, the percentage reaches 35 per cent, compared to 8.7 per cent for men. These figures reflect socio-cultural barriers that limit women's access to better paid and secure positions, highlighting the need for policies that promote gender equity in employment.

Figure 6 - Family workers by gender. Year 2022 (% of female and male employment)



Source: International Labour Organization (ILO).

Gender distribution in sectoral employment

The 2022 analysis of employment distribution in the agriculture, industry and services sectors in the Mediterranean countries shows strong gender disparities, with women predominating in services and men more in agriculture and industry. This gap reflects gender stereotypes and socio-cultural constraints that influence women's access to certain sectors.

In services, women make up the majority of employment in almost all Mediterranean countries. In France, 88.6% of women work in services, compared to 68.1% of men, while in Israel and Jordan more than 92% of women are employed in the sector. A similar concentration of women can also be observed in Lebanon and Cyprus, where women are often relegated to traditional roles with fewer opportunities for growth.

In agriculture, employment is predominantly male, but in some countries such as Morocco, Albania and Turkey, a significant percentage of women are employed in this sector (48.2%, 39.8% and 21.8% respectively). This reflects the weight of informal and rural work, where women often work without social protection.

Furthermore, the industrial sector shows a strong male predominance. In Italy, 36.2% of men are employed in industry, while only 14% of women work there. Similar situations are observed in Serbia and Tunisia, where men employed in industry represent 37.3% and 34%, respectively, while women are 19.3% and 31.7%. The under-representation of women in industry is linked to barriers in access to technical roles and male dominance in these areas. These data underline the importance of policies that facilitate women's equal access to all areas of work.

Figure 7a - Distribution of employment in sectors by gender and macro-region. Year 2022 (% of female employment)

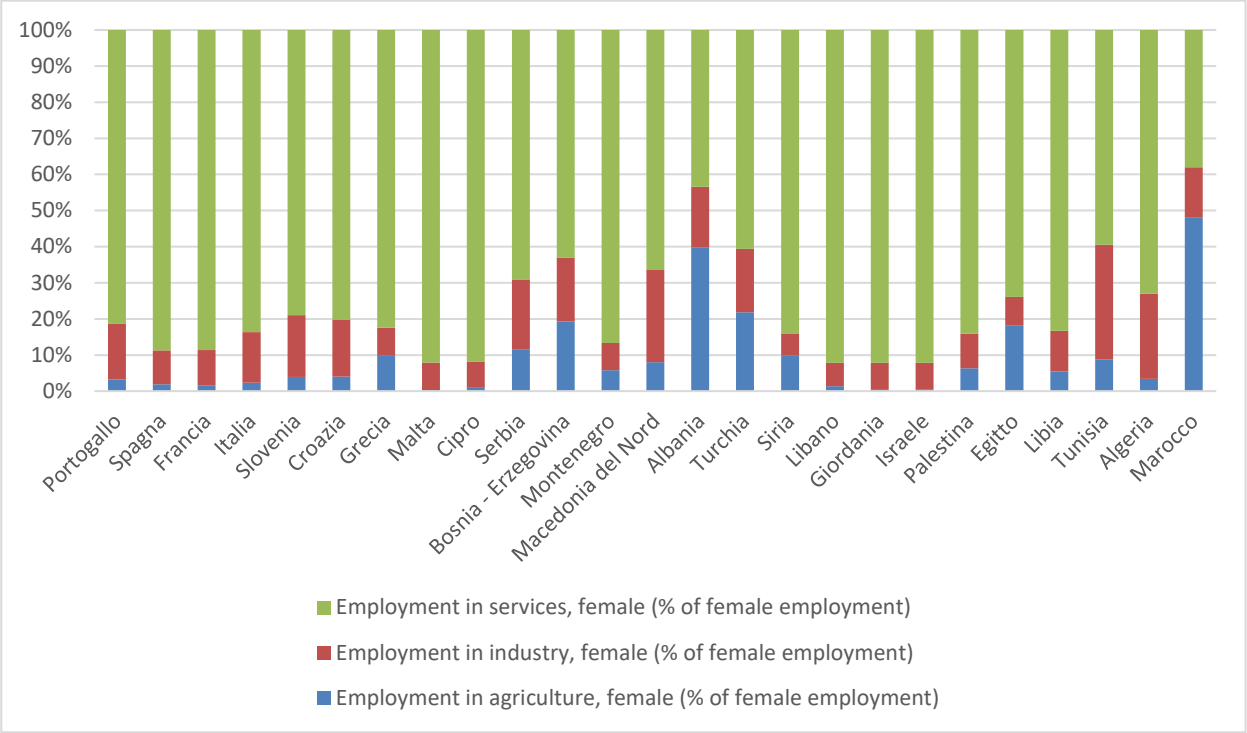
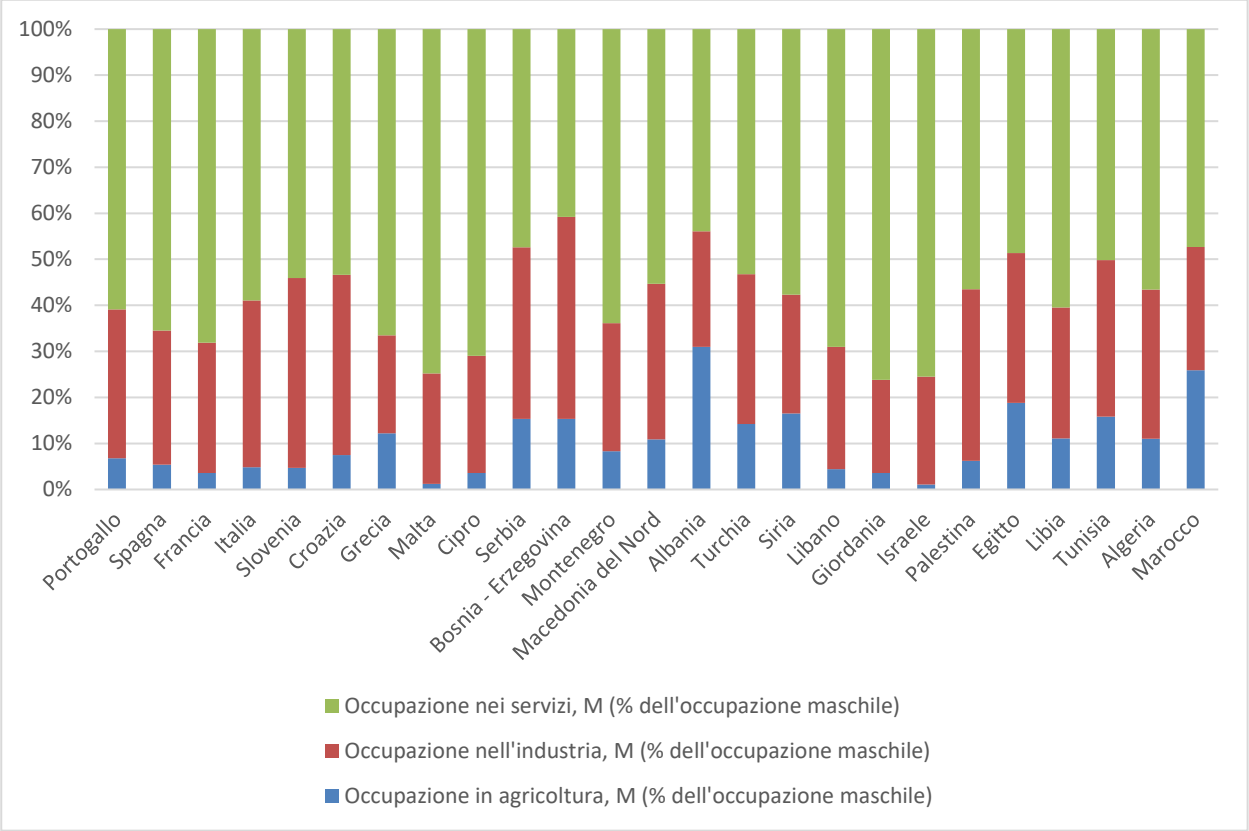


Figure 7b - Distribution of employment in sectors by gender and macro-region. Year 2022 (% of male employment)



Source: International Labour Organization (ILO) and Istat.

OTHER GENDER ISSUES

OVERVIEW

	INDICATORS	Prevalence of current tobacco use, females (% of female adults)	Prevalence of current tobacco use, males (% of male adults)	Gross intake ratio to the last grade of lower secondary general education, female (%)	Gross intake ratio to the last grade of lower secondary general education, male (%)	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	Women Business and the Law Index (scale 1-100)	Gender Development Index (min=0, max=1)	Gender Inequality Index (min=0, max=1)
	Year	2022	2022	2021	2021	2024	2023	2022	2022
EUROPEAN UNION	Portugal	20,7	30,5	100,8	100,5	36,5	100,0	1,00	0,08
	Spain	27,5	29,4	96,6	93,0	44,3	100,0	0,99	0,06
	France	33,7	35,5	99,7	99,8	37,3	100,0	0,99	0,08
	Italy	19,1	25,7	99,8	100,8	32,3	97,5	0,97	0,06
	Slovenia	18,5	21,8	97,0	94,4	37,8	96,9	1,00	0,05
	Croatia	37,3	36,7	97,1	97,6	33,8	93,8	0,99	0,09
	Greece	30,6	35,0	95,1	95,3	23,0	100,0	0,97	0,12
	Malta	23,2	26,3	99,3	100,3	27,9	91,2	0,98	0,12
	Cyprus	23,9	47,2	104,0	104,0	14,3	96,9	0,98	0,25
WESTERN BALCANS	Serbia	39,1	39,9	97,7	96,9	38,0	93,8	0,99	0,12
	Kosovo	..	..	..	..	..	91,9	..	..
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	30,9	41,6	87,3	89,2	19,1	85,0	0,95	0,15
	Montenegro	33,2	30,9	94,9	96,7	27,2	85,0	0,98	0,11
	North Macedonia	..	..	87,0	86,8	42,5	85,0	0,95	0,13
	Albania	6,0	37,8	93,8	101,2	35,7	91,2	0,98	0,12
MIDDLE EAST	Turkiye	19,8	41,2	93,0	93,7	19,9	82,5	0,94	0,26
	Syrian Arab Republic	..	..	46,5	41,8	10,4	40,0	0,81	0,49
	Lebanon	25,7	42,9	..	..	6,3	58,8	0,93	0,37
	Jordan	13,6	57,6	67,8	67,4	13,1	59,4	0,86	0,45
	Israel	13,8	27,0	94,3	93,2	25,0	80,6	0,99	0,09
	West Bank and Gaza	..	..	93,2	88,2	..	26,2	0,88	..
NORTH AFRICA	Egypt, Arab Rep.	0,4	49,1	86,6	85,6	27,7	50,6	0,88	0,39
	Libya	..	..	..	..	16,5	50,0	0,99	0,27
	Tunisia	1,6	39,5	90,1	71,4	15,7	64,4	0,93	0,24
	Algeria	0,7	41,8	93,1	76,4	7,9	57,5	0,88	0,46
	Morocco	1,0	25,0	77,0	70,9	24,3	75,6	0,85	0,44

Source: World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Inter- Parliamentary Union (IPU), World Bank (WB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

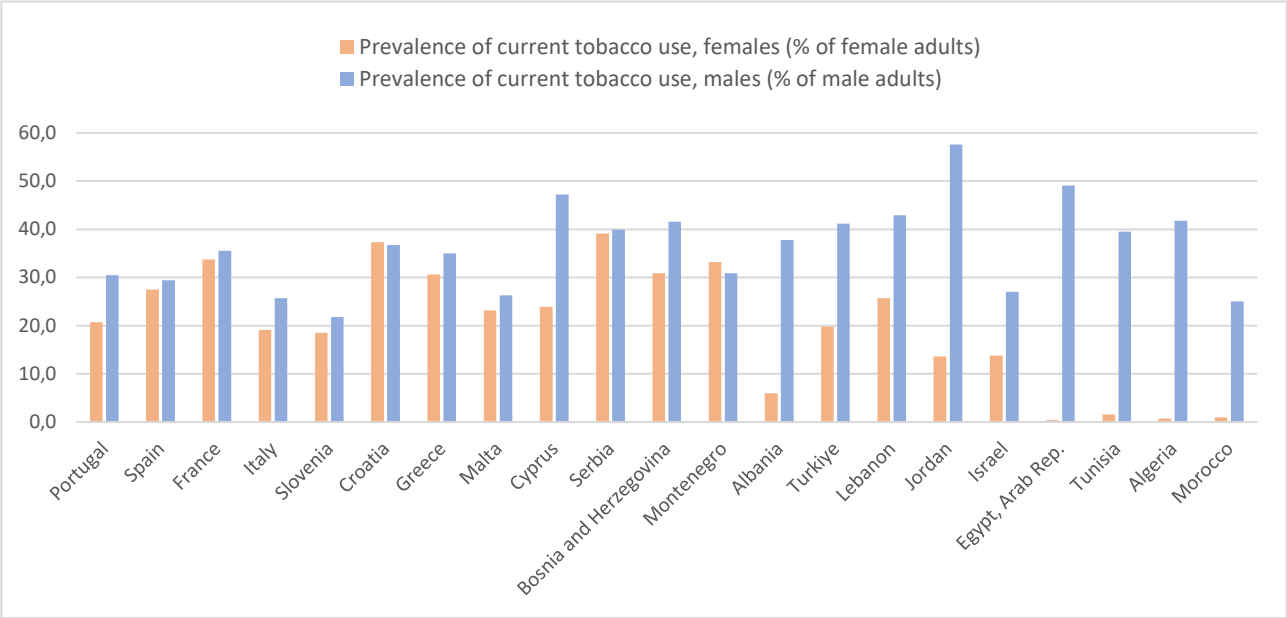
SOME HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS

Lifestyles

The health status of countries is influenced by the lifestyle of their population. Tobacco consumption is one of the main contributors to illness and death from non-communicable diseases in the population; it is also considered in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, Figure 1).

Among the EU countries of the Mediterranean area, gender gaps in the indicator on tobacco consumption are smaller than in the countries of the other macro-regions. Cyprus is the EU country with the largest gap (23.9% for women and 47.2% for men), followed by Portugal (20.7% and 30.5% respectively) and Italy (19.1% and 25.7%). However, the indicator levels are highest in Croatia, France, and Greece, where they exceed 30% for both sexes. A situation of substantial equivalence in smoking habits also concerns some Western Balkan countries: Serbia and Montenegro (in the latter the indicator value is even higher for women). The most polarized situation occurs instead in the Middle Eastern countries (except for Israel and Lebanon) and North Africa, where smoking habits affect in many cases more than four out of 10 men, with the highest values in Jordan (57.6%) and Egypt (49.1%), while tobacco consumption among women is much less widespread, especially in North African countries (with shares not exceeding 2%).

Figure 1 - Tobacco use by gender. 2022 *(% of women and men 15 years and over)*



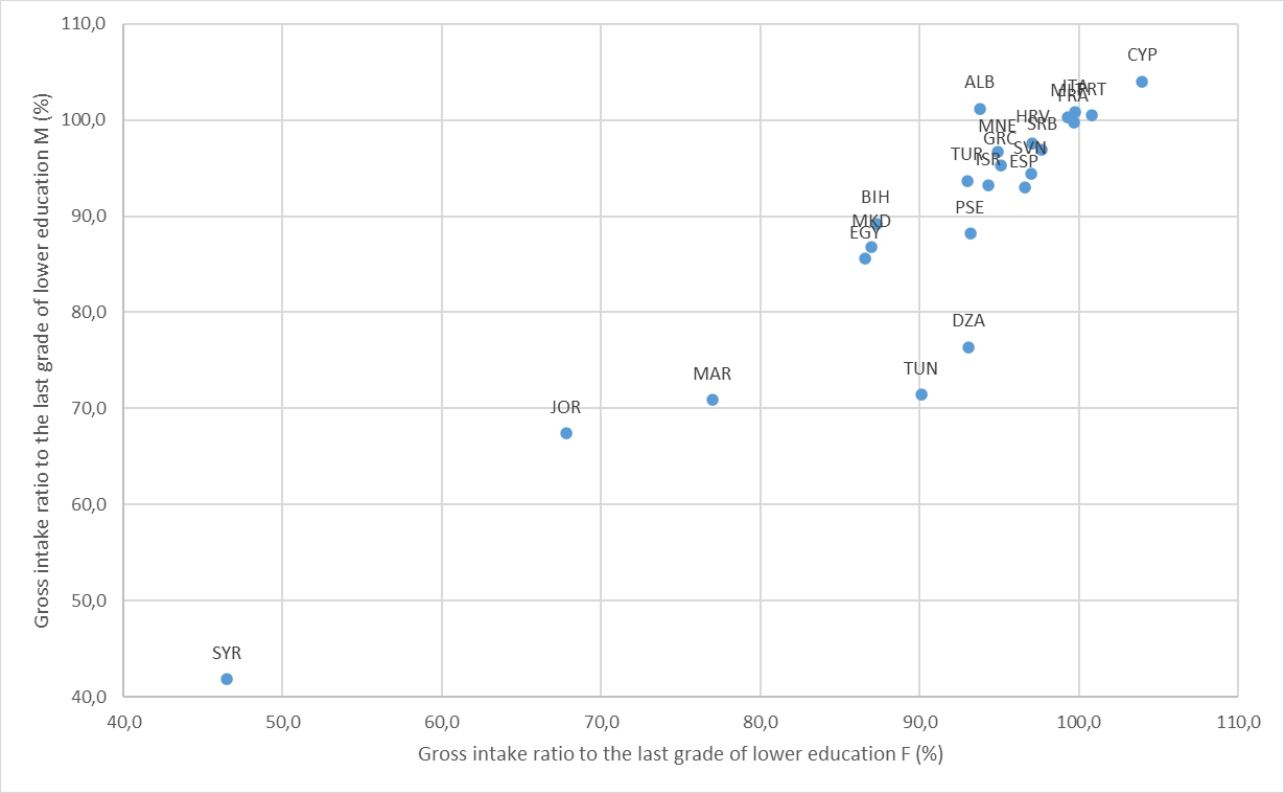
Source: World Health Organization (WHO).

Schooling

Gender gaps in education are quite diverse by macro-region and country. A high ratio of the indicator on admission to the last class of lower secondary education (as a percentage of the population at the age of entry) also indicates a high degree of completion of current primary education (Figure 2). This is a gross measure and can therefore exceed 100 per cent if there are many pupils who entered school early or late and/or repeated previous years. It also reflects how policies on access and progression through the early grades of primary or lower secondary education affect the final grade at that level.

Among the EU countries, there is a substantial gender balance at levels close to full schooling; in Slovenia and Spain, however, the ratio is more favorable for women (97% vs. 94.4% and 96.6% vs. 93%, respectively). In the Western Balkans, Albania lags in female schooling (93.8% vs. 101.2%), while in the Middle East, it should be noted that West Bank and Gaza has a more favorable ratio for women than for men (93.2% vs. 88.2%). This advantage of the female component is also particularly noteworthy in three North African countries: Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco.

Figure 2 – Gross intake ratio to the last grade of lower education by gender. 2021 (%)



Source: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Political participation and women's empowerment

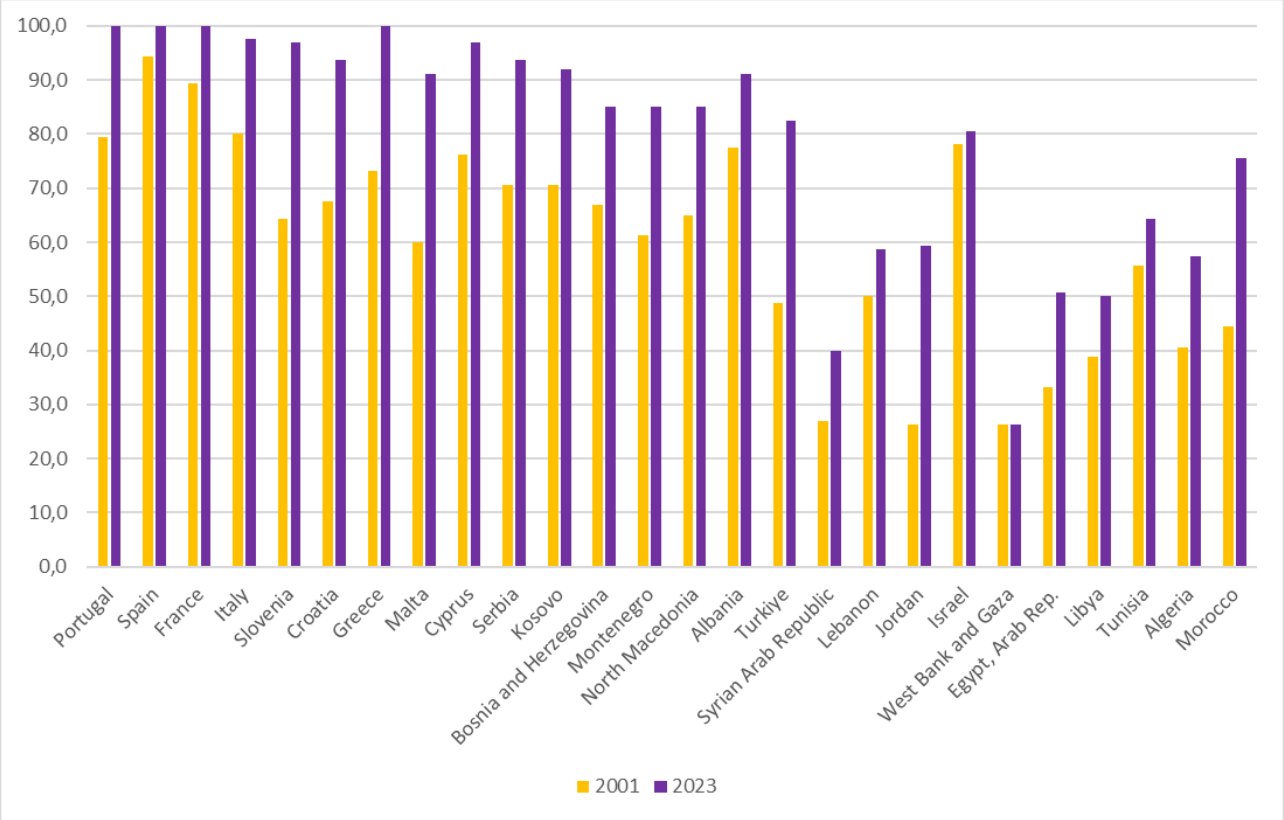
Political participation reveals a smaller gender gap in most EU countries. In Spain, the indicator on the number of seats occupied by women in national parliaments is quite high (44.3%, Figure 3). In Slovenia, France and Portugal, the shares are also close to 40%. Similar levels apply in the Western Balkans, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Albania. In the two European macro-regions, however, the female parliamentary presence is more modest in the case of Cyprus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Greece. Among the Middle Eastern countries, the highest value of the indicator is in Israel (25%), while in all the other countries it is less than 20%. In North Africa, Egypt and Morocco experience an incidence of parliamentary seats occupied by women of about a quarter of the total.

The Woman Business and Law Index is a composite index measuring the effect of laws and regulations on women's economic opportunities (mobility, employment, pay, marriage, parenthood, entrepreneurship, wealth, and retirement). Better performance in the issues measured by the Women, Business and the Law index is associated with more women in the workforce, higher income, and better development outcomes. Given the economic importance of women's empowerment, one of the goals of the Women, Business and the Law Index is to encourage governments to reform laws that hinder women's access to the labor market.

On a scale from 1 to 100, the indicator shows on average higher values within the EU countries. In 2022 the highest values of the indicator reached for four countries (Portugal, Spain, France, and Greece) are the result of a strong upward dynamic over more than two decades (Figure 3). The indicator's levels in the Western Balkans are higher on average (with a minimum value of 85) than those recorded among the countries of the Middle East (which vary between 26 in Palestine and 82 in Turkey) and North Africa (between about 50 and 75, with a maximum value for Morocco). Overall, compared to 2001, it can be noted that the countries with

the greatest increase in the value of the index (by more than 30 points), in the direction of a reduction in gender discrimination, were Turkey, Jordan, Morocco and Slovenia.

Figure 3 – Women Business and Law Index. 2001 and 2023 *(scale 1-100)*



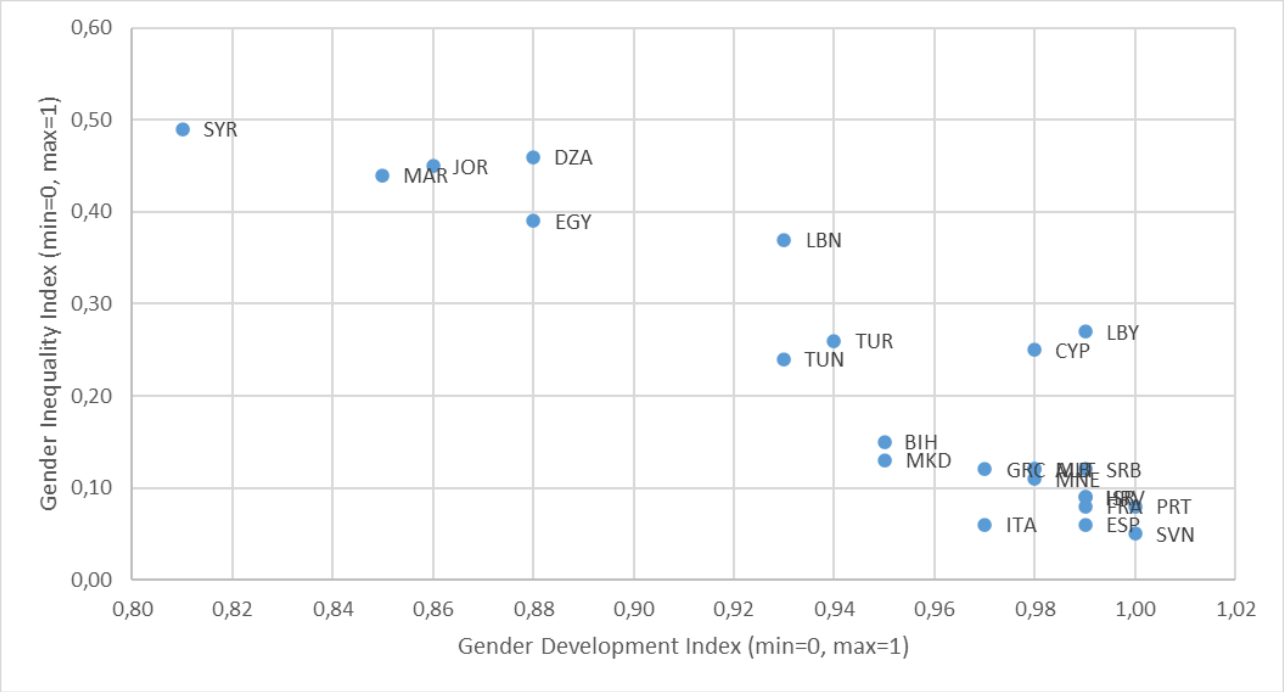
Source: World Bank (WB).

Development and gender inequality

As part of the Human Development Reports published by the United Nations (https://hdr.undp.org/), among other measures updated every year in addition to the overall human development indices (see chapter "Other Social Issues"), two are specifically dedicated to the status of women. In particular, the Gender Development Index, calculated as the ratio of the Women's Human Development Index to the Men's Human Development Index, measures the achievement of equal human development of women compared to men in terms of health, education, and income; the Gender Inequality Index, on the other hand, measures gender disadvantage based on indicators related to reproductive health, empowerment, and the labour market.

The scatter plot of the two indicators places most EU countries in the bottom right quadrant (together with Israel), corresponding to the highest values of gender development and the lowest values of inequality (Figure 4). Among these countries, the value of 1 in gender development achieved by Portugal and Slovenia stands out, while Cyprus deviates by a more pronounced gender inequality. In the Western Balkans, gender development is close to that of the EU countries, with slightly higher levels of the gender inequality index. In contrast, several countries in the Middle East and North Africa occupy the upper left quadrant, with the least favorable values for both indicators: this is especially the case for Syria, Morocco, Jordan, Algeria, and Egypt.

Figure 4 – Gender Development Index and Gender Inequality Index. 2022 (min=0, max=1)



Source: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

WeMed indicators: methodological aspects

Introduction

The WeMed statistical database is the result of a complex work of collection, comparison and selection of data from the most accredited international statistical sources. Relevant differences in the development of the national statistical systems of the mediterranean countries mean that it is difficult to collect complete and comparable statistical information; such difficulties are exacerbated especially in territories affected by current or recent wars[1]. The complete coverage of the 26 countries considered is guaranteed in any case for many indicators by international agencies, also through estimation methodologies and statistical models.

An essential reference point for addressing these issues is the valuable statistical system 'World Bank Development Indicators', in which the World Bank collects from all international statistical sources and updates annually almost 1,500 national time series for all countries[2]. Analyzing the data for the Mediterranean countries released by this system, a path was followed in several steps: a) selection of indicators; b) collection and validation of data from primary sources; c) collection and validation of metadata.

Selection of indicators

Taking the time series of 1,447 indicators as of March 2023 in the World Bank Development Indicators database as a reference, a pre-selection was made of 1,072 indicators showing a high coverage of the 26 WeMed countries, with the criterion of having at least 20 countries with available time series. Then, these indicators were classified according to a three-level thematic structure: the first two levels (Thematic Areas and Themes) were derived from a Eurostat conceptual grid[3], the third one (Sub-themes) was developed ad hoc in order to facilitate the selection of indicators. Finally, the 146 WeMed indicators were chosen: 142 of them connected to those in World Bank Development Indicators, plus 4 composite indicators of Human Development annually released by the United Nations Development Programme (https://www.undp.org/).

Data collection and validation

Where possible, priority was given to data that can be downloaded directly from the international primary sources indicated and used by the World Bank. This, in order to obtain more controlled and sometimes even more up-to-date data. Furthermore, as far as Italy is concerned, we wanted to give priority to the values published for many indicators by Istat (with the same definition and algorithm as for other countries), so as to avoid inconsistencies with these data. Therefore, the 2001-2024 time series (where available) for all indicators were collected from international sources for the 26 WeMed countries and from Istat for Italy. In addition, time series of the numerator and denominator values of the indicators were also downloaded, in order to make up for the possible absence of calculated values in the primary sources and to allow the possibility of calculating indicators at a supra-national level.

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[1] WeMed's geographical coverage includes the 26 countries that mainly gravitate around the Mediterranean Sea: 9 of them belong to the European Union (Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece, Malta and Cyprus), 6 to the Western Balkans (Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania), 6 to the Middle East (Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, Palestine), 5 to North Africa (Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco).

[2] https://databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?source=2&country=ARE.

[3] The tree of Areas and Themes adopted by Eurostat in the 'Key Figures in Europe' series (version 2024 at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-key-figures/w/ks-ei-24-001) includes three main Thematic Areas: 1) 'Population and Society' with 6 Themes - Population, Health, Education, Labour Market, Living Conditions, Digital Society; 2) 'Economy and Business' with 7 Themes - Economy and Finance, Prices, Household Consumption Expenditure, International Trade, Business, Research and Development, Tourism; 3) 'Environment and Natural Resources' with 4 Themes - Transport, Energy, Environment, Agriculture.

The time series of the different sources for each indicator and those already published by the World Bank were cross-checked for discrepancies between values by country and year. The discrepancies are mainly attributable to different timing of series updates, or relate to the last year of data update. As a final outcome of the selection process, international primary sources and Istat for Italy were favoured in case of available data and absence of specific problems. On the other hand, it was decided to use the series already published by the World Bank in the following cases: i) if this source is the primary source of data, through its own surveys or estimation procedures; ii) if it has developed ad hoc historical series that are more complete, through the collection from multiple primary sources; iii) if it has supplemented the database of indicators published by the international primary sources with the values of some countries not published by these primary sources (limited to the values of these countries).

The acquisition process was managed through an Access DB, up to the production of reports comparing the sources and the extraction and procession of data from the selected sources to form the WeMed database.

Metadata collection and validation

Along with the collection of statistical data, the information useful to populate a metadata dataset was also collected from the websites of the selected sources: type of survey, estimation procedures, data quality, limits of interpretation, links with SDG indicators, etc. After choosing the source(s) to be used for each indicator, this information was refined to provide a coherent summary of the most relevant aspects.

Dissemination of data and metadata in WeMed

In WeMed, the indicators' values per country form the reference information base for the 12 thematic pages, where the main findings are highlighted. In addition, data for all indicators can be queried through the dashboard, which allows graphs and maps to be displayed.

Information on indicator metadata can be consulted in three ways:

1) in the Thematic Pages of the website, for the indicators therein, by clicking on the metadata button;

2) in the Dashboard of the website, for the selected indicators, by clicking on the metadata button;

3) at the end of the methodological note in the website, you can download the csv file for all indicators; a shortened version with list, definitions and sources is in Annex 1 of this chapter.

On the contents of the metadata, some details deserve to be added:

- the information included in the 'Methodology' field is about the methods and techniques of data collection and the rules for processing the indicators;

- the information included in the field 'Notes' concerns aspects such as details of the indicator's field of observation, limitations to comparability arising from the heterogeneous quality of the data between countries and from the different criteria adopted, warnings for a correct interpretation of the meaning of the indicators;

- the information included in the field 'Presence in policy-oriented information systems' indicates that some indicators are also envisaged in the context of international statistical systems that address policy choices adopted by the countries. In particular, reference is made to: a) the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), articulated in 17 Goals, to which a system of targets and indicators is linked; b) the European Neighbourhood Policy South (ENP South), for which Eurostat carries out statistical cooperation activities with the countries involved and releases a specific section of its database. See also: https://sdgs.un.org/goals and https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Statistical_cooperation_-_European_Neighbourhood_Policy-South_(ENP-S)#Data_collection_and_dissemination.

ANNEX 1 - WeMed indicators, definitions and statistical sources

Nr.	Indicator	Subject area	Topic	Definition	Sources
001	Population, total	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Population	Total population is based on the de facto definition of population, which counts all residents regardless of legal status or citizenship. The values shown are midyear estimates.	a) World Bank Development Indicators, from: United Nations Population Division, National Statistical Offices, Eurostat; b) Istat for Italy
002	Population growth (annual %)	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Population	Exponential rate of growth of midyear population from year t-1 to t, expressed as a percentage.	a) World Bank Development Indicators, from: United Nations Population Division, National Statistical Offices, Eurostat; b) Istat for Italy
003	Age dependency ratio, old (% of working-age population)	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Population	Percentage of older dependents--people older than 64--to the working-age population--those ages 15-64, at the 1st January of each year.	a) World Bank Development Indicators, from United Nations Population Division; b) Istat for Italy
004	Population ages 0-14 (% of total population)	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Population	Population between the ages 0 to 14 as a percentage of the total population at the 1st January of each year.	a) World Bank Development Indicators, from United Nations Population Division; b) Istat for Italy
005	Population ages 65 and above (% of total population)	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Population	Population ages 65 and above as a percentage of the total population at the 1st January of each year.	a) World Bank Development Indicators, from United Nations Population Division; b) Istat for Italy
006	Birth rate, crude (per 1,000 people)	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Population	Number of live births occurring during the year, per 1,000 population estimated at midyear.	a) World Bank Development Indicators, from: United Nations Population Division, National Statistical Offices, Eurostat; b) Istat for Italy
007	Fertility rate, total (births per woman)	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Population	The average number of live births a hypothetical cohort of women would have at the end of their reproductive period if they were subject during their whole lives to the fertility rates of a given period and if they were not subject to mortality. It is expressed as live births per woman.	a) United Nations Population Division; b) Istat for Italy

008	**Life expectancy at birth, total (years)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Population	Number of years a newborn infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same throughout its life.	a) World Bank Development Indicators, from: United Nations Population Division, National Statistical Offices, Eurostat; b) Istat for Italy
009	**Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Population	Number of infants dying before reaching one year of age, per 1,000 live births in a given year.	a) United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation; b) Istat for Italy
010	**Prevalence of current tobacco use (% of adults)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Other social issues	The percentage of the population ages 15 years and over who currently use any tobacco product (smoked and/or smokeless tobacco) on a daily or non-daily basis.	WHO
011	**Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population (%)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Other social issues	The percentage of people in the population who live in households classified as moderately or severely food insecure. A household is classified as moderately or severely food insecure when at least one adult in the household has reported to have been exposed, at times during the year, to low quality diets and might have been forced to also reduce the quantity of food they would normally eat because of a lack of money or other resources.	FAO
012	**Diabetes prevalence (% of population ages 20 to 79)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Other social issues	Percentage of people ages 20-79 who have type 1 or type 2 diabetes. It is calculated by adjusting to a standard population age-structure.	International Diabetes Federation
013	**Gross intake ratio to the last grade of lower secondary general education, both sexes (%)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Other social issues	Total number of new entrants into the last grade of lower secondary general education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population at the intended entrance age to the last grade of or lower secondary general education.The intended entrance age to the last grade is the age at which pupils would enter the grade if they had started school at the official primary entrance age, had studied full-time and had progressed without repeating or skipping a grade.	UNESCO
014	**Labor force participation rate, total (% of**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Labour market	Percentage of the population ages 15-64 that is economically active: all people who supply labor for the	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy

	total population ages 15-64)			production of goods and services during a specified period.	
015	**Labor force participation rate for ages 15-24, total (%)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Labour market	Percentage of the population ages 15-24 that is economically active: all people who supply labor for the production of goods and services during a specified period.	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
016	**Employment to population ratio, 15+, total (%)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Labour market	Percentage of a country's population ages 15 years and over that is employed. Employment is defined as persons of working age who, during a short reference period, were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit, whether at work during the reference period (i.e. who worked in a job for at least one hour) or not at work due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangements. Ages 15 and older are generally considered the working-age population.	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
017	**Employment to population ratio, ages 15-24, total (%)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Labour market	Percentage of a country's population ages 15-24 that is employed. Employment is defined as persons of working age who, during a short reference period, were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit, whether at work during the reference period (i.e. who worked in a job for at least one hour) or not at work due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangements. Ages 15-24 are generally considered the youth population.	ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
018	**Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Labour market	Persons of working age engaged in the agricoltural sector to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit, whether at work during the reference period or not at work due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangement. The agriculture sector consists of activities in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing, in accordance with division 1 (ISIC 2) or categories A-B (ISIC 3) or category A (ISIC 4).	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
019	**Employment in industry (% of total employment)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Labour market	Persons of working age engaged in the industrial sector to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit, whether at work during the reference period or not at	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy

				work due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangement. The industry sector consists of mining and quarrying, manufacturing, construction, and public utilities (electricity, gas, and water), in accordance with divisions 2-5 (ISIC 2) or categories C-F (ISIC 3) or categories B-F (ISIC 4).	
020	**Employment in services (% of total employment)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Labour market	Persons of working age engaged in the tertiary sector to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit, whether at work during the reference period or not at work due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangement. The services sector consists of wholesale and retail trade and restaurants and hotels; transport, storage, and communications; financing, insurance, real estate, and business services; and community, social, and personal services, in accordance with divisions 6-9 (ISIC 2) or categories G-Q (ISIC 3) or categories G-U (ISIC 4).	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
021	**Wage and salaried workers, total (% of total employment)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Labour market	Persons who hold the type of jobs defined as "paid employment jobs," where the incumbents hold explicit (written or oral) or implicit employment contracts that give them a basic remuneration that is not directly dependent upon the revenue of the unit for which they work.	ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST)
022	**Self-employed, total (% of total employment)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Labour market	Persons who, working on their own account or with one or a few partners or in cooperative, hold the type of jobs defined as a "self-employment jobs." i.e. jobs where the remuneration is directly dependent upon the profits derived from the goods and services produced. Self-employed workers include four sub-categories of employers, own-account workers, members of producers' cooperatives, and contributing family workers.	ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST)
023	**Employers, total (% of total employment)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Labour market	Persons who, working on their own account or with one or a few partners, hold the type of jobs defined as a "self-employment jobs" i.e. jobs where the remuneration is directly dependent upon the profits	ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST)

				derived from the goods and services produced), and, in this capacity, have engaged, on a continuous basis, one or more persons to work for them as employee(s).	
024	**Vulnerable employment, total (% of total employment)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Labour market	Contributing family workers and own-account workers as a percentage of total employment.	ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST)
025	**Contributing family workers, total (% of total employment)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Labour market	Persons who hold "self-employment jobs" as own-account workers in a market-oriented establishment operated by a person living in the same household.	ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST)
026	**Unemployment, total (% of total labor force)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Labour market	Share of the labor force that is without work but available for and seeking employment.	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
027	**Unemployment, youth total (% of total labor force ages 15-24)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Labour market	Share of the labor force ages 15-24 without work but available for and seeking employment.	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
028	**Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Other social issues	Share per 100 residents of fixed subscriptions to high-speed access to the public Internet (a TCP/IP connection), at downstream speeds equal to, or greater than, 256 kbit/s.	a) International Telecommunication Union; b) World Bank Development Indicators for West Bank and Gaza
029	**Individuals using the Internet (% of population)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Other social issues	Share per 100 residents of the sum of active number of analogue fixed telephone lines, voice-over-IP (VoIP) subscriptions, fixed wireless local loop (WLL) subscriptions, ISDN voice-channel equivalents and fixed public payphones.	a) International Telecommunication Union; b) World Bank Development Indicators for West Bank and Gaza
030	**Mobile cellular subscriptions (per 100 people)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Other social issues	Share per 100 residents of the ubscriptions to a public mobile telephone service that provide access to the PSTN using cellular technology.	World Bank Develpoment Indicators, from International Telecommunication Union
031	**Human Development Index (min=0, max=1)**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Other social issues	Composite index which measures achievements in three key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions.	United Nations Development Programme
032	**Inequality-adjusted Human Development**	POPULATION AND SOCIETY	Other social issues	Composite index which adjusts the Human Development Index (HDI) for inequality in the distribution of	United Nations Development Programme

	Index (min=0, max=1)			each dimension across the population.	
033	**GDP (US$ billion, constant 2015 prices)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	GDP at purchaser's prices is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. Data are in constant 2015 prices, expressed in U.S. dollars. Dollar figures for GDP are converted from domestic currencies using 2015 official exchange rates. For a few countries where the official exchange rate does not reflect the rate effectively applied to actual foreign exchange transactions, an alternative conversion factor is used.	World Bank Development Indicators, from World Bank and OECD
034	**GDP (US$ billion, current values)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	GDP at purchaser's prices is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy *plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products.* It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. Data are in current U.S. dollars. Dollar figures for GDP are converted from domestic currencies using single year official exchange rates. For a few countries where the official exchange rate does not reflect the rate effectively applied to actual foreign exchange transactions, an alternative conversion factor is used.	World Bank Development Indicators, from World Bank and OECD
035	**GDP growth (annual %)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	Annual percentage growth rate of GDP at market prices based on constant local currency.	World Bank Development Indicators, from World Bank and OECD
036	**GDP per capita (constant 2015 US$)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	Gross domestic product divided by midyear population.	World Bank Development Indicators, from World Bank and OECD

037	**GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international $)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	Gross domestic product converted to international dollars using purchasing power parity rates. An international dollar has the same purchasing power over GDP as the U.S. dollar has in the United States.	World Bank Development Indicators from World Bank International Comparison Program and Eurostat-OECD PPP Programme
038	**GDP per person employed (constant 2017 PPP $)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	Gross domestic product (GDP) divided by total employment in the economy. Purchasing power parity (PPP) GDP is GDP converted to 2017 constant international dollars using PPP rates. An international dollar has the same purchasing power over GDP that a U.S. dollar has in the United States.	World Bank Development Indicators, data from ILO, United Nations Population Division, Eurostat, OECD and World Bank
039	**Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (% of total value added)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	Agriculture, forestry, and fishing corresponds to ISIC divisions 1-3 and includes forestry, hunting, and fishing, as well as cultivation of crops and livestock production. Value added is the net output of a sector after adding up all outputs and subtracting intermediate inputs. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or depletion and degradation of natural resources. The origin of value added is determined by the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), revision 4.	WeMed estimates of data from World Bank Development Indicators
040	**Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (annual % growth)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	Annual growth rate for agricultural, forestry, and fishing value added based on constant local currency. Aggregates are based on constant 2015 prices, expressed in U.S. dollars. Agriculture corresponds to ISIC divisions 01-03 and includes forestry, hunting, and fishing, as well as cultivation of crops and livestock production. Value added is the net output of a sector after adding up all outputs and subtracting intermediate inputs. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or depletion and degradation of natural resources. The origin of value added is determined by the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), revision 4.	World Bank Development Indicators, from World Bank and OECD

041	**Industry (including construction), value added (% of total value added)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	Industry (including construction) corresponds to ISIC divisions 05-43 and includes manufacturing (ISIC divisions 10-33). It comprises value added in mining, manufacturing (also reported as a separate subgroup), construction, electricity, water, and gas. Value added is the net output of a sector after adding up all outputs and subtracting intermediate inputs. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or depletion and degradation of natural resources. The origin of value added is determined by the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), revision 4.	WeMed estimates of data from World Bank Development Indicators
042	**Industry (including construction), value added (annual % growth)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	Annual growth rate for industrial (including construction) value added based on constant local currency. Aggregates are based on constant 2015 prices, expressed in U.S. dollars. Industry corresponds to ISIC divisions 05-43 and includes manufacturing (ISIC divisions 10-33). It comprises value added in mining, manufacturing (also reported as a separate subgroup), construction, electricity, water, and gas. Value added is the net output of a sector after adding up all outputs and subtracting intermediate inputs. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or depletion and degradation of natural resources. The origin of value added is determined by the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), revision 4.	World Bank Development Indicators, from World Bank and OECD
043	**Medium and high-tech manufacturing value added (% manufacturing value added)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added of manufacturing	World Bank Development Indicators, from United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
044	**Services, value added (% of total value added)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	Services correspond to ISIC divisions 45-99 and they include value added in wholesale and retail trade (including hotels and restaurants), transport, and government, financial, professional, and personal	WeMed estimates of data from World Bank Development Indicators

				services such as education, health care, and real estate services. Also included are imputed bank service charges, import duties, and any statistical discrepancies noted by national compilers as well as discrepancies arising from rescaling. Value added is the net output of a sector after adding up all outputs and subtracting intermediate inputs. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or depletion and degradation of natural resources. The industrial origin of value added is determined by the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), revision 3 or 4.	
045	**Services, value added (annual % growth)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	Annual growth rate for value added in services based on constant local currency. Aggregates are based on constant 2015 prices, expressed in U.S. dollars. Services correspond to ISIC divisions 45-99. They include value added in wholesale and retail trade (including hotels and restaurants), transport, and government, financial, professional, and personal services such as education, health care, and real estate services. Also included are imputed bank service charges, import duties, and any statistical discrepancies noted by national compilers as well as discrepancies arising from rescaling. Value added is the net output of a sector after adding up all outputs and subtracting intermediate inputs. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or depletion and degradation of natural resources. The industrial origin of value added is determined by the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), revision 4.	World Bank Development Indicators, from World Bank and OECD
046	**General government final consumption expenditure (annual % growth)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	Annual percentage growth of general government final consumption expenditure based on constant local currency. Aggregates are based on constant 2015 prices, expressed in U.S. dollars. General government final consumption expenditure (general	World Bank Development Indicators, from World Bank and OECD

				government consumption) includes all government current expenditures for purchases of goods and services (including compensation of employees). It also includes most expenditures on national defense and security, but excludes government military expenditures that are part of government capital formation.	
047	**Household and NPISHs Final consumption expenditure (annual % growth)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	Annual percentage growth of household and NPISHs final consumption expenditure based on constant local currency. Aggregates are based on constant 2015 prices, expressed in U.S. dollars. Household and NPISHs final consumption expenditure (formerly private consumption) is the market value of all goods and services, including durable products (such as cars, washing machines, and home computers), purchased by households. It excludes purchases of dwellings but includes imputed rent for owner-occupied dwellings. It also includes payments and fees to governments to obtain permits and licenses. This indicator includes the expenditures of nonprofit institutions serving households even when reported separately by the country.	World Bank Development Indicators, from World Bank and OECD
048	**Social contributions (% of revenue)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	Social contributions include social security contributions by employees, employers, and self-employed individuals, and other contributions whose source cannot be determined. They also include actual or imputed contributions to social insurance schemes operated by governments.	a) International Monetary Fund; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Lebanon
049	**Tax revenue (% of GDP)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	Tax revenue refers to compulsory transfers to the central government for public purposes. Certain compulsory transfers such as fines, penalties, and most social security contributions are excluded. Refunds and corrections of erroneously collected tax revenue are treated as negative revenue.	a) International Monetary Fund; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Lebanon, Jordan, West Bank and Gaza, Tunisia, Morocco
050	**Taxes on goods and services (% of revenue)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	Taxes on goods and services include general sales and turnover or value added taxes, selective excises on goods, selective taxes	a) International Monetary Fund; b) World Bank Development

				on services, taxes on the use of goods or property, taxes on extraction and production of minerals, and profits of fiscal monopolies.	Indicators for Lebanon, Jordan, West Bank and Gaza
051	**Current government expenditure on goods and services (% of GDP)**	ECONOMY	Macroeconomy and public finance	Cash payments for operating activities of the government in providing goods and services. It includes compensation of employees (such as wages and salaries), interest and subsidies, grants, social benefits, and other expenses such as rent and dividends.	a) International Monetary Fund; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Lebanon, Jordan, West Bank and Gaza, Morocco
052	**Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)**	ECONOMY	International relationships	Exports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services provided to the rest of the world. They include the value of merchandise, freight, insurance, transport, travel, royalties, license fees, and other services, such as communication, construction, financial, information, business, personal, and government services. They exclude compensation of employees and investment income (formerly called factor services) and transfer payments.	World Bank Development Indicators, from World Bank and OECD
053	**Exports of goods and services (annual % growth)**	ECONOMY	International relationships	Annual growth rate of exports of goods and services based on constant local currency. Aggregates are based on constant 2015 prices, expressed in U.S. dollars. Exports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services provided to the rest of the world. They include the value of merchandise, freight, insurance, transport, travel, royalties, license fees, and other services, such as communication, construction, financial, information, business, personal, and government services. They exclude compensation of employees and investment income (formerly called factor services) and transfer payments.	World Bank Development Indicators, from World Bank and OECD
054	**Exports of goods and services (US$ billion, current values)**	ECONOMY	International relationships	Exports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services provided to the rest of the world. They include the value of merchandise, freight, insurance, transport, travel, royalties, license	World Bank Development Indicators, from World Bank and OECD

				fees, and other services, such as communication, construction, financial, information, business, personal, and government services. They exclude compensation of employees and investment income (formerly called factor services) and transfer payments. Data are in current U.S. dollars.	
055	**Merchandise exports (US$ billion, current values)**	ECONOMY	International relationships	F.o.b. value of goods provided to the rest of the world.	a) World Trade Organization; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Serbia
056	**Agricultural raw materials exports (% of merchandise exports)**	ECONOMY	International relationships	Agricultural raw materials comprise SITC section 2 (crude materials except fuels) excluding divisions 22, 27 (crude fertilizers and minerals excluding coal, petroleum, and precious stones), and 28 (metalliferous ores and scrap).	a) UNCTAD; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Spain and Montenegro
057	**Food exports (% of merchandise exports)**	ECONOMY	International relationships	Food comprises the commodities in SITC sections 0 (food and live animals), 1 (beverages and tobacco), and 4 (animal and vegetable oils and fats) and SITC division 22 (oil seeds, oil nuts, and oil kernels).	a) UNCTAD; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Spain and Montenegro
058	**Fuel exports (% of merchandise exports)**	ECONOMY	International relationships	Fuels comprise the commodities in SITC section 3 (mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials).	a) UNCTAD; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Spain and Montenegro
059	**Imports of goods and services (% of GDP)**	ECONOMY	International relationships	Imports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services received from the rest of the world. They include the value of merchandise, freight, insurance, transport, travel, royalties, license fees, and other services, such as communication, construction, financial, information, business, personal, and government services. They exclude compensation of employees and investment income (formerly called factor services) and transfer payments.	World Bank Development Indicators, from World Bank and OECD
060	**Imports of goods and services (annual % growth)**	ECONOMY	International relationships	Annual growth rate of imports of goods and services based on constant local currency. Aggregates are based on constant 2015 prices, expressed in U.S. dollars.	World Bank Development Indicators, from World Bank and OECD

061	**Imports of goods and services (US$ billion, current values)**	ECONOMY	International relationships	Imports of goods and services represent the value of all goods and other market services received from the rest of the world. They include the value of merchandise, freight, insurance, transport, travel, royalties, license fees, and other services, such as communication, construction, financial, information, business, personal, and government services. They exclude compensation of employees and investment income (formerly called factor services) and transfer payments. Data are in current U.S. dollars.	World Bank Development Indicators, from World Bank and OECD
062	**Merchandise imports (US$ billion, current values)**	ECONOMY	International relationships	C.i.f. value of goods received from the rest of the world.	a) World Trade Organization; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Serbia
063	**Agricultural raw materials imports (% of merchandise imports)**	ECONOMY	International relationships	Agricultural raw materials comprise SITC section 2 (crude materials except fuels) excluding divisions 22, 27 (crude fertilizers and minerals excluding coal, petroleum, and precious stones), and 28 (metalliferous ores and scrap).	a) UNCTAD; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Spain and Montenegro
064	**Food imports (% of merchandise imports)**	ECONOMY	International relationships	Food comprises the commodities in SITC sections 0 (food and live animals), 1 (beverages and tobacco), and 4 (animal and vegetable oils and fats) and SITC division 22 (oil seeds, oil nuts, and oil kernels).	a) UNCTAD; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Spain and Montenegro
065	**Fuel imports (% of merchandise imports)**	ECONOMY	International relationships	Fuels comprise the commodities in SITC section 3 (mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials).	a) UNCTAD; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Spain and Montenegro
066	**Foreign direct investment, net inflows (% of GDP)**	ECONOMY	International relationships	Net inflows of investment are new investment inflows less disinvestment in the reporting economy from foreign investors, in order to acquire a lasting management interest (10 percent or more of voting stock) in an enterprise. It is the sum of equity capital, reinvestment of earnings, other long-term capital, and short-term capital as shown in the balance of payments.	a) International Monetary Fund; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, West Bank and Gaza, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria
067	**Foreign direct investment, net outflows (% of GDP)**	ECONOMY	International relationships	Net outflows of investment are new investment outflows less disinvestment from the reporting economy to the rest of the world, in order to acquire a lasting	a) International Monetary Fund; b) World Bank Development Indicators for

				management interest (10 percent or more of voting stock) in an enterprise. It is the sum of equity capital, reinvestment of earnings, other long-term capital, and short-term capital as shown in the balance of payments.	Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Lebanon, Jordan, West Bank and Gaza, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria
068	**International tourism, number of arrivals (thousands)**	ECONOMY	Other economic issues	International inbound tourists (overnight visitors) are the number of tourists who travel to a country other than that in which they have their usual residence, but outside their usual environment, for a period not exceeding 12 months and whose main purpose in visiting is other than an activity remunerated from within the country visited. When data on number of tourists are not available, the number of visitors, which includes tourists, same-day visitors, cruise passengers, and crew members, is shown instead.	a) UN Tourism; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Portugal, Slovenia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Lebanon, West Bank and Gaza, Tunisia
069	**International tourism, number of departures (thousands)**	ECONOMY	Other economic issues	International outbound tourists are the number of departures that people make from their country of usual residence to any other country for any purpose other than a remunerated activity in the country visited. The data on outbound tourists does not refer to the number of people traveling; thus a person who makes several trips from a country during a given period is counted each time as a new departure.	a) UN Tourism for Spain, France, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Malta, Cyprus, Albania; b) World Bank Development Indicators from World Tourism Organisation for other countries
070	**High-technology exports (% of manufactured exports)**	ECONOMY	Other economic issues	Exports of products with high R&D intensity, such as in aerospace, computers, pharmaceuticals, scientific instruments, and electrical machinery, as a percentage of manifactured exports.	a) UNCTAD; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Spain and Montenegro
071	**ICT goods exports (% of total goods exports)**	ECONOMY	Other economic issues	Information and communication technology goods imports - including computers and peripheral equipment, communication equipment, consumer electronic equipment, electronic components, and other information and technology goods (miscellaneous) - as a percentage of goods imports.	UNCTAD
072	**ICT goods imports (% total goods imports)**	ECONOMY	Other economic issues	Information and communication technology goods exports - including computers and peripheral equipment, communication equipment,	UNCTAD

				consumer electronic equipment, electronic components, and other information and technology goods (miscellaneous) - as a percentage of goods exports.	
073	**Patent applications, residents and non residents (per 1.000,000 inhabitants)**	ECONOMY	Other economic issues	Worldwide patent applications filed through the Patent Cooperation Treaty procedure or with a national patent office for exclusive rights for an invention: a product or process that provides a new way of doing something or offers a new technical solution to a problem. A patent provides protection for the invention to the owner of the patent for a limited period, generally 20 years.	WeMed estimates from World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
074	**Commercial bank branches (per 100,000 adults)**	ECONOMY	Other economic issues	Ratio (per 100 persons ages 15 and older) of retail locations of resident commercial banks and other resident banks that function as commercial banks that provide financial services to customers and are physically separated from the main office but not organized as legally separated subsidiaries.	International Monetary Fund
075	**Domestic credit to private sector (% of GDP)**	ECONOMY	Other economic issues	Percentage of GDP of financial resources provided to the private sector by financial corporations, such as through loans, purchases of nonequity securities, and trade credits and other accounts receivable, that establish a claim for repayment. For some countries these claims include credit to public enterprises.	a) International Monetary Fund; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Cyprus
076	**Domestic credit to private sector by banks (% of GDP)**	ECONOMY	Other economic issues	Percentage of GDP of domestic credit to private sector by banks refers to financial resources provided to the private sector by other depository corporations (deposit taking corporations except central banks), such as through loans, purchases of nonequity securities, and trade credits and other accounts receivable, that establish a claim for repayment. For some countries these claims include credit to public enterprises.	a) International Monetary Fund; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Cyprus and Lebanon
077	**Air transport, freight (million ton-km)**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Infrastructures, transport and energy	Volume of freight, express, and diplomatic bags carried on each flight stage (operation of an aircraft from takeoff to its next landing), measured in metric tons times kilometers traveled.	World Bank Development Indicators from International Civil Aviation Organization

078	**Air transport, passengers carried**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Infrastructures, transport and energy	Domestic and international aircraft passengers of air carriers registered in the country.	World Bank Development Indicators from International Civil Aviation Organization
079	**Liner shipping connectivity index (medium value in 2023.I = 100)**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Infrastructures, transport and energy	Composite index which measures an economy's position within global liner shipping networks. It is calculated from the number of ship calls, the container handling capacity of ports, the number of services and companies, the size of the largest ship, and the number of countries connected through direct liner shipping services. For each year, the value of the fourth quarter is considered.	UNCTAD
080	**Logistics performance index: Overall (1=low to 5=high)**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Infrastructures, transport and energy	Composite index which measures perceptions of a country's logistics based on the efficiency of customs clearance process, quality of trade- and transport-related infrastructure, ease of arranging competitively priced shipments, quality of logistics services, ability to track and trace consignments, and frequency with which shipments reach the consignee within the scheduled time. The index ranges from 1 to 5, with a higher score representing better performance.	World Bank
081	**Renewable energy consumption (% of total final energy consumption)**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Infrastructures, transport and energy	Share of renewables energy in total final energy consumption.Renewable energy includes hydro, solid biofuels, liquid biofuels, biogases, wind, solar, geothermal, tide/wave/oceans and renewable municipal waste.	International Energy Agency (IEA), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), "Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report"
082	**Surface area (sq. km)**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Environment and territory	Country's total area, including areas under inland bodies of water and some coastal waterways.	a) Istat for Italy; b) Eurostat for Portugal, Spain, France, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece, Malta, Cyprus; c) World Bank Development Indicators for Syria; d) FAO for other countries

083	Forest area (% of land area)	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Environment and territory	Percentage over the land area of the forest area, that is land under natural or planted stands of trees of at least 5 meters in situ, whether productive or not, excluding tree stands in agricultural production systems (for example, in fruit plantations and agroforestry systems) and trees in urban parks and gardens.	a) FAO; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Egypt, Libya, Algeria
084	Rural population (% of total population)	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Environment and territory	Rural population refers to people living in rural areas as defined by national statistical offices. It is calculated as the difference between total population and urban population.	World Bank Development Indicators from United Nations Population Division
085	Population in the largest city (% of urban population)	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Environment and territory	Percentage of a country's urban population living in that country's largest metropolitan area.	World Bank Development Indicators from United Nations Population Division
086	Urban population (% of total population)	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Environment and territory	Urban population refers to people living in urban areas as defined by national statistical offices.	a) United Nations Population Division; b) World Bank Development Indicators for West Bank and Gaza
087	Marine protected areas (% of territorial waters)	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Environment and territory	Percentage over the territorial waters of marine protected areas, that are areas of intertidal or subtidal terrain--and overlying water and associated flora and fauna and historical and cultural features--reserved by law or other effective means to protect part or all of the enclosed environment.	World Bank Development Indicators from United Nations Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
088	Terrestrial protected areas (% of total land area)	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Environment and territory	Percentage over the total land area of terrestrial protected areas, that are areas totally or partially protected areas of at least 1,000 hectares that are designated by national authorities as scientific reserves with limited public access, national parks, natural monuments, nature reserves or wildlife sanctuaries, protected landscapes, and areas managed mainly for sustainable use. Marine areas, unclassified areas, littoral (intertidal) areas, and sites protected under local or provincial law are excluded.	World Bank Development Indicators from United Nations Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
089	Annual freshwater withdrawals, total (billion cubic meters)	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Environment and territory	Annual freshwater withdrawals refer to total water withdrawals, not counting evaporation losses from storage basins. Withdrawals also include water from desalination plants in countries	FAO

				where they are a significant source.	
090	**Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Environment and territory	Ratio between total freshwater withdrawn by all major sectors and total renewable freshwater resources, after taking into account environmental water requirements. Main sectors, as defined by ISIC standards, include agriculture; forestry and fishing; manufacturing; electricity industry; and services. This indicator is also known as water withdrawal intensity.	FAO
091	**Agricultural land (sq. km)**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Agricolture	Land area that is arable, under permanent crops and under permanent pastures. Arable land includes land defined by the FAO as land under temporary crops (double-cropped areas are counted once), temporary meadows for mowing or for pasture, land under market or kitchen gardens, and land temporarily fallow. Land abandoned as a result of shifting cultivation is excluded. Land under permanent crops is land cultivated with crops that occupy the land for long periods and need not be replanted after each harvest. This category includes land under flowering shrubs, fruit trees, nut trees, and vines, but excludes land under trees grown for wood or timber. Permanent pasture is land used for five or more years for forage, including natural and cultivated crops.	FAO
092	**Agricultural land (% of land area)**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Agricolture	Share of land area that is arable, under permanent crops and under permanent pastures.	FAO
093	**Arable land (% of land area)**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Agricolture	Share of land area that is arable land: land defined by the FAO as land under temporary crops (double-cropped areas are counted once), temporary meadows for mowing or for pasture, land under market or kitchen gardens, and land temporarily fallow. Land abandoned as a result of shifting cultivation is excluded.	FAO
094	**Arable land (hectares per 1.000 persons)**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Agricolture	Arable land (hectares per 1.000 persons). it includes land defined by the FAO as land under	FAO

				temporary crops (double-cropped areas are counted once), temporary meadows for mowing or for pasture, land under market or kitchen gardens, and land temporarily fallow. Land abandoned as a result of shifting cultivation is excluded.	
095	**Permanent cropland (% of land area)**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Agricolture	Share of land area that is permanent cropland: land cultivated with crops that occupy the land for long periods and need not be replanted after each harvest. This category includes land under flowering shrubs, fruit trees, nut trees, and vines, but excludes land under trees grown for wood or timber.	FAO
096	**Livestock production index (2014-2016 = 100)**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Agricolture	Vaue of livestock production for each year relative to the base period 2014-2016. It index includes meat and milk from all sources, dairy products such as cheese, and eggs, honey, raw silk, wool, and hides and skins.	FAO
097	**Crop production index (2014-2016 = 100)**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Agricolture	Vaue of agricultural production for each year relative to the base period 2014-2016. It includes all crops except fodder crops.	FAO
098	**Food production index (2014-2016 = 100)**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Agricolture	Vaue of food production for each year relative to the base period 2014-2016. It covers food crops that are considered edible and that contain nutrients. Coffee and tea are excluded because, although edible, they have no nutritive value.	FAO
099	**Fertilizer consumption (kilograms per hectare of arable land)**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Agricolture	Quantity of plant nutrients used per unit of arable land. Fertilizer products cover nitrogenous, potash, and phosphate fertilizers (including ground rock phosphate). Traditional nutrients--animal and plant manures--are not included.	World Bank Development Indicators from FAO
100	**Agricultural methane emissions (thousand metric tons of CO2 equivalent)**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Agricolture	Methane emissions from animals, animal waste, rice production, agricultural waste burning (nonenergy, on-site), and savanna burning.	a) World Resources Institute; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Syria
101	**Agricultural nitrous oxide emissions (thousand metric tons of CO2 equivalent)**	ENVIRNOMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Agricolture	Nitrous oxide emissions produced through fertilizer use (synthetic and animal manure), animal waste management, agricultural waste burning (nonenergy, on-site), and savanna burning.	a) World Resources Institute; b) World Bank Development Indicators for Syria

102	**Population, female**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Population and gender	Population by gender is based on the de facto definition of population, which counts all female residents regardless of legal status or citizenship.The values shown are midyear estimates.	a) World Bank Development Indicators, from: United Nations Population Division, National Statistical Offices, Eurostat; b) Istat for Italy
103	**Population, male**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Population and gender	Population by gender is based on the de facto definition of population, which counts all female residents regardless of legal status or citizenship.The values shown are midyear estimates.	a) World Bank Development Indicators, from: United Nations Population Division, National Statistical Offices, Eurostat; b) Istat for Italy
104	**Population, female (% of total population)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Population and gender	The percentage of the population that is female (midyear estimates).	a) World Bank Development Indicators, from: United Nations Population Division, National Statistical Offices, Eurostat; b) Istat for Italy
105	**Population ages 0-14, female (% of female population)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Population and gender	Female population between the ages 0 to 14 as a percentage of the total female population at the 1st January of each year.	a) World Bank Development Indicators, from United Nations Population Division; b) Istat for Italy
106	**Population ages 0-14, male (% of male population)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Population and gender	Male population between the ages 0 to 14 as a percentage of the total male population at the 1st January of each year.	a) World Bank Development Indicators, from United Nations Population Division; b) Istat for Italy
107	**Population ages 65 and above, female (% of female population)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Population and gender	Female population 65 years of age or older as a percentage of the total female population at the 1st January of each year.	a) World Bank Development Indicators, from United Nations Population Division; b) Istat for Italy
108	**Population ages 65 and above, male (% of male population)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Population and gender	Male population ages 65 and above as a percentage of the total population at the 1st January of each year.	a) World Bank Development Indicators, from United Nations Population Division; b) Istat for Italy
109	**Life expectancy at birth, female (years)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Population and gender	Number of years a female newborn infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same throughout its life.	a) World Bank Development Indicators, from: United Nations Population Division, National Statistical Offices, Eurostat; b) Istat for Italy

110	**Life expectancy at birth, male (years)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Population and gender	Number of years a male newborn infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same throughout its life.	a) World Bank Development Indicators, from: United Nations Population Division, National Statistical Offices, Eurostat; b) Istat for Italy
111	**Mortality rate, infant, female (per 1,000 live births)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Population and gender	Number of female infants dying before reaching one year of age, per 1,000 female live births in a given year.	a) United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation; b) Istat for Italy
112	**Mortality rate, infant, male (per 1,000 live births)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Population and gender	Number of male infants dying before reaching one year of age, per 1,000 male live births in a given year.	a) United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation; b) Istat for Italy
113	**Prevalence of current tobacco use, females (% of female adults)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Other gender issues	The percentage of the female population ages 15 years and over who currently use any tobacco product (smoked and/or smokeless tobacco) on a daily or non-daily basis. Tobacco products include cigarettes, pipes, cigars, cigarillos, waterpipes (hookah, shisha), bidis, kretek, heated tobacco products, and all forms of smokeless (oral and nasal) tobacco. Tobacco products exclude e-cigarettes (which do not contain tobacco), “e-cigars”, “e-hookahs”, JUUL and “e-pipes”. The rates are age-standardized to the WHO Standard Population.	WHO
114	**Prevalence of current tobacco use, males (% of male adults)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Other gender issues	The percentage of the male population ages 15 years and over who currently use any tobacco product (smoked and/or smokeless tobacco) on a daily or non-daily basis. Tobacco products include cigarettes, pipes, cigars, cigarillos, waterpipes (hookah, shisha), bidis, kretek, heated tobacco products, and all forms of smokeless (oral and nasal) tobacco. Tobacco products exclude e-cigarettes (which do not contain tobacco), “e-cigars”, “e-hookahs”, JUUL and “e-pipes”. The rates are age-standardized to the WHO Standard Population.	WHO
115	**Gross intake ratio to the last grade of lower secondary general**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Other gender issues	Number of new female entrants into the last grade of primary education or lower secondary general education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the female population at the	UNESCO

	education, female (%)			intended entrance age to the last grade of primary education or lower secondary general education.The intended entrance age to the last grade is the age at which pupils would enter the grade if they had started school at the official primary entrance age, had studied full-time and had progressed without repeating or skipping a grade.	
116	**Gross intake ratio to the last grade of lower secondary general education, male (%)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Other gender issues	Number of new male entrants into the last grade of primary education or lower secondary general education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the female population at the intended entrance age to the last grade of primary education or lower secondary general education.The intended entrance age to the last grade is the age at which pupils would enter the grade if they had started school at the official primary entrance age, had studied full-time and had progressed without repeating or skipping a grade.	UNESCO
117	**Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15-64)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Percentage of the female population ages 15-64 that is economically active: all people who supply labor for the production of goods and services during a specified period.	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
118	**Labor force participation rate, male (% of male population ages 15-64)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Percentage of the male population ages 15-64 that is economically active: all people who supply labor for the production of goods and services during a specified period.	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
119	**Labor force participation rate for ages 15-24, female (%)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Percentage of the female population ages 15-24 that is economically active: all people who supply labor for the production of goods and services during a specified period.	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
120	**Labor force participation rate for ages 15-24, male (%)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Percentage of the male population ages 15-24 that is economically active: all people who supply labor for the production of goods and services during a specified period.	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
121	**Employment to population ratio, 15+, female (%)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Percentage of a country's female population ages 15 years and over that is employed. Employment is defined as persons of working age who, during a short reference period, were engaged in any activity to produce goods or	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy

				provide services for pay or profit, whether at work during the reference period (i.e. who worked in a job for at least one hour) or not at work due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangements. Ages 15 and older are generally considered the working-age population.	
122	**Employment to population ratio, 15+, male (%)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Percentage of a country's population ages 15 years and over that is employed. Employment is defined as persons of working age who, during a short reference period, were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit, whether at work during the reference period (i.e. who worked in a job for at least one hour) or not at work due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangements. Ages 15 and older are generally considered the working-age population.	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
123	**Employment to population ratio, ages 15-24, female (%)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Percentage of a country's female population that is employed. Employment is defined as persons of working age who, during a short reference period, were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit, whether at work during the reference period (i.e. who worked in a job for at least one hour) or not at work due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangements. Ages 15-24 are generally considered the youth population.	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
124	**Employment to population ratio, ages 15-24, male (%)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Percentage of a country's male population that is employed. Employment is defined as persons of working age who, during a short reference period, were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit, whether at work during the reference period (i.e. who worked in a job for at least one hour) or not at work due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangements. Ages 15-24 are generally considered the youth population.	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
125	**Employment in agriculture, female (% of**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Women of working age engaged in the agricoltural sector to produce goods or provide services for pay	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy

	female employment)			or profit, whether at work during the reference period or not at work due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangement. The agriculture sector consists of activities in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing, in accordance with division 1 (ISIC 2) or categories A-B (ISIC 3) or category A (ISIC 4).	
126	**Employment in agriculture, male (% of male employment)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Men of working age engaged in the agricoltural sector to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit, whether at work during the reference period or not at work due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangement. The agriculture sector consists of activities in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing, in accordance with division 1 (ISIC 2) or categories A-B (ISIC 3) or category A (ISIC 4).	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
127	**Employment in industry, female (% of female employment)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Women of working age who engaged in the industrial sector to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit, whether at work during the reference period or not at work due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangement. The industry sector consists of mining and quarrying, manufacturing, construction, and public utilities (electricity, gas, and water), in accordance with divisions 2-5 (ISIC 2) or categories C-F (ISIC 3) or categories B-F (ISIC 4).	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
128	**Employment in industry, male (% of male employment)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Men of working age who engaged in the industrial sector to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit, whether at work during the reference period or not at work due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangement. The industry sector consists of mining and quarrying, manufacturing, construction, and public utilities (electricity, gas, and water), in accordance with divisions 2-5 (ISIC 2) or categories C-F (ISIC 3) or categories B-F (ISIC 4).	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
129	**Employment in services, female (% of female employment)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Women of working age engaged in the tertiary sector to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit, whether at work during the reference period or not at	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy

				work due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangement. The services sector consists of wholesale and retail trade and restaurants and hotels; transport, storage, and communications; financing, insurance, real estate, and business services; and community, social, and personal services, in accordance with divisions 6-9 (ISIC 2) or categories G-Q (ISIC 3) or categories G-U (ISIC 4).	
130	**Employment in services, male (% of male employment)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Men of working age engaged in the tertiary sector to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit, whether at work during the reference period or not at work due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangement. The services sector consists of wholesale and retail trade and restaurants and hotels; transport, storage, and communications; financing, insurance, real estate, and business services; and community, social, and personal services, in accordance with divisions 6-9 (ISIC 2) or categories G-Q (ISIC 3) or categories G-U (ISIC 4).	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
131	**Wage and salaried workers, female (% of female employment)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Persons who hold the type of jobs defined as "paid employment jobs," where the incumbents hold explicit (written or oral) or implicit employment contracts that give them a basic remuneration that is not directly dependent upon the revenue of the unit for which they work.	ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST)
132	**Wage and salaried workers, male (% of male employment)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Persons who hold the type of jobs defined as "paid employment jobs," where the incumbents hold explicit (written or oral) or implicit employment contracts that give them a basic remuneration that is not directly dependent upon the revenue of the unit for which they work.	ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST)
133	**Self-employed, female (% of female employment)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Persons who, working on their own account or with one or a few partners or in cooperative, hold the type of jobs defined as a "self-employment jobs." i.e. jobs where the remuneration is directly dependent upon the profits derived from the goods and services produced. Self-employed	ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST)

				workers include four sub-categories of employers, own-account workers, members of producers' cooperatives, and contributing family workers.	
134	**Self-employed, male (% of male employment)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Persons who, working on their own account or with one or a few partners or in cooperative, hold the type of jobs defined as a "self-employment jobs." i.e. jobs where the remuneration is directly dependent upon the profits derived from the goods and services produced. Self-employed workers include four sub-categories of employers, own-account workers, members of producers' cooperatives, and contributing family workers.	ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST)
135	**Employers, female (% of female employment)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Persons who, working on their own account or with one or a few partners, hold the type of jobs defined as a "self-employment jobs" i.e. jobs where the remuneration is directly dependent upon the profits derived from the goods and services produced), and, in this capacity, have engaged, on a continuous basis, one or more persons to work for them as employee(s).	ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST)
136	**Employers, male (% of male employment)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Persons who, working on their own account or with one or a few partners, hold the type of jobs defined as a "self-employment jobs" i.e. jobs where the remuneration is directly dependent upon the profits derived from the goods and services produced), and, in this capacity, have engaged, on a continuous basis, one or more persons to work for them as employee(s).	ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST)
137	**Vulnerable employment, female (% of female employment)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Contributing family workers and own-account workers as a percentage of total employment.	ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST)
138	**Vulnerable employment, male (% of male employment)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Contributing family workers and own-account workers as a percentage of total employment.	ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST)
139	**Contributing family workers, female (% of**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Persons who hold "self-employment jobs" as own-account workers in a market-oriented establishment operated by a	ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST)

	female employment)			related person living in the same household.	
140	**Contributing family workers, male (% of male employment)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Persons who hold "self-employment jobs" as own-account workers in a market-oriented establishment operated by a related person living in the same household.	ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST)
141	**Unemployment, female (% of female labor force)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Share of the female labor force that is without work but available for and seeking employment.	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
142	**Unemployment, male (% of male labor force)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Labour market and gender	Share of the male force that is without work but available for and seeking employment.	a) ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST); b) Istat for Italy
143	**Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Other gender issues	Percentage of parliamentary seats in a single or lower chamber held by women.	Inter-Parliamentary Union
144	**Women Business and the Law Index (scale 1-100)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Other gender issues	Composite index which measures how laws and regulations affect women's economic opportunity. Overall scores are calculated by taking the average score of each index (Mobility, Workplace, Pay, Marriage, Parenthood, Entrepreneurship, Assets and Pension), with 100 representing the highest possible score.	World Bank
145	**Gender Development Index (min=0, max=1)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Other gender issues	Composite index which measures gender inequalities in achievement in three basic dimensions of human development: health, measured by female and male life expectancy at birth; education, measured by female and male expected years of schooling for children and female and male mean years of schooling for adults ages 25 years and older; and command over economic resources, measured by female and male estimated earned income. It is calculated as the ratio of women's Human Development Index (HDI) to men's value.	United Nations Development Programme
146	**Gender Inequality Index (min=0, max=1)**	INDICATORS BY GENDER	Other gender issues	Composite index which measures gender-based disadvantage in three dimensions—reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market—for as many countries as data of reasonable quality allow. It shows the loss in potential human development due	United Nations Development Programme

				to inequality between female and male achievements in these dimensions. It ranges from 0, where women and men fare equally, to 1, where one gender fares as poorly as possible in all measured dimensions.	

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Annex: country legend

Portogallo	PRT
Spagna	ESP
Francia	FRA
Italia	ITA
Slovenia	SVN
Croazia	HRV
Grecia	GRC
Malta	MLT
Cipro	CYP
Serbia	SRB
Kosovo	XKX
Bosnia - Erzegovina	BIH
Montenegro	MNE
Macedonia del Nord	MKD
Albania	ALB
Turchia	TUR
Siria	SYR
Libano	LBN
Giordania	JOR
Israele	ISR
Palestina	PSE
Egitto	EGY
Libia	LBY
Tunisia	TUN
Algeria	DZA
Marocco	MAR

WeMed. Society, Economy, and Environment in the Mediterranean

WeMed. Society, Economy, and Environment in the Mediterranean presents an in-depth, multidimensional analysis of the social, economic, environmental, and gender dynamics that characterise the Mediterranean region. The publication explores the interconnections between North Africa, the Middle East, the European Union, and the Balkans, highlighting the challenges and opportunities for sustainable and inclusive development in this globally significant area.

Structured into four thematic areas – Population and Society, Economy, Environment and Natural Resources, Gender Disparities – the volume offers an integrated perspective on demographic changes, labour markets, health, education, macroeconomics, international relations, agriculture, and infrastructure. Regional specificities are emphasised through comparative analyses and detailed indicators, supported by an interactive dashboard for data visualisation and territorial trends.

The focus on gender inequalities is a cross-cutting theme, recognised as central to sustainable development. In North African and Middle Eastern countries, the low levels of female inclusion in labour markets and political institutions underscore the urgency of structural interventions. In contrast, while the European Union has made significant progress, there remain areas for improvement, particularly in leadership and pay equity.

Economically, the Mediterranean is a fragmented region where advanced economies coexist with emerging markets. Managing natural resources and adopting sustainable practices are critical, especially in the context of increasing environmental pressures. Prioritising agriculture, renewable energy, and infrastructure connectivity emerges as a strategic factor to ensure food security and economic resilience.

WeMed. Society, Economy, and Environment in the Mediterranean aims to serve as both an analytical and operational tool, providing a transparent and methodologically robust data foundation to support policymaking and cooperative strategies that promote equity, sustainability, and integrated development across the Mediterranean region.

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