The Mediterranean:
1. site of contacts and exchanges among nations
2. site of tensions and misunderstandings:
   - lack and/or difficulty of dialogue,
   - increasing and prolonged conflicts,
   - environmental issues,
   - no tolerance due to socio-economic factors and different cultural approaches;
3. favours the peaceful and prosperous development of the peoples.

The aims of PESME
- Promote advanced knowledge of the issues of SD in the Region;
- undertake joint training and research projects by the Mediterranean HE institutions and enterprises;
- contribute to capacity building with the transfer of knowledge through the cooperation between interuniversity know-how and enterprises;
- increase awareness and understanding of problems of SD and contribute to solve them through collaboration with civil society, public and private enterprises and institutions;
- enforce the implementation of an "Economic and socio-sanitary virtual Observatory within the Mediterranean" as well as a "Virtual Observatory for the research in the Mediterranean";
- urge and reinforce human safety like economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political security.

State of Art
PESME represents a joint initiative of
CMU Community of Mediterranean Universities
UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNU United Nations University

Features of supporting institutions
1. CMU: meaningful research and formation activities cooperating with the Universities of all Mediterranean countries in several fields of HE;
2. UNESCO: leading Institution for activities in all fields, within the "Decade of Education for sustainable development 2005 – 2014", and promoting the dialogue and co-operation with existing UN, national institutions and educational networks;
3. UNU particularly active with regard to SD and has launched the Regional Centres of Expertise (RCE) as a network of formal, and informal education organizations, aimed at delivering education for sustainable development within the several regional communities.

The training proposed fields
- HUMAN SAFETY;
- HEALTH;
- CULTURAL GOODS;
- CAPABILITIES AND MIGRATION FLOWS;
- ENVIRONMENT.

Didactic methodologies
a) Planning methodologies for research and SD;
b) Planning methodology of a cooperation action plan and knowledge nets;
c) Planning of specific interventions for applied research to SD;
d) Methodologies of enterprise involvement;
e) Methodologies of evaluation and monitoring of the actions;
f) Ex-ante evaluation, monitoring and ex-post evaluation of the projects;
g) Project management models of cooperation plans for applied research in the sectors above mentioned.

Core elements and future major activities of PESME
A) commonly agreed curricula among the promoting partners of the programme, the institutions and the enterprises;
B) broad exchange of students, teachers and teaching materials;
C) use of the facilities offered by ICTs;
D) Joint research projects on SD issues;
E) Training courses, residential or e-learning;
F) Advocacy and educational activities to promote intellectual dialogue among Mediterranean communities.