



# EMEA Webinar on “Blue Transition Scenario 2050 for the Mediterranean: Towards TRIS Development Model”

Date 8 July 2020, 10:00



Union pour la Méditerranée  
Union for the Mediterranean  
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



Implemented by  
giz



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN  
NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES  
الشبكة الأوروبية لدراسات الاقتصاد

## 1<sup>st</sup> EMNES-UfM Regional Stakeholder Dialogue Webinar

### EMNES Blue Transition Scenario 2050 for the Mediterranean: Towards TRIS Development Model

The Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES), founded in 2015 with the support of the European Union (Grant Contract N° ENPI/2014/354-488 (2015-2019)) is a collaborative and innovative regional network of thirty economic and policy research institutions and think tanks from 19 Countries of the Mediterranean and beyond, working towards a renewed vision for socio-economic development in the region.

2020 is an important milestone for EMNES, following five productive years of collaborative research and co-created peer-to-peer knowledge. A comprehensive policy roadmap, building on the Blue Transition Vision (BTV) and guided by the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was published in April 2020 and will be the subject of the policy-academic dialogue.

## EMEA Webinar on Blue Transition Scenario 2050 for the Mediterranean: Towards TRIS Development Model

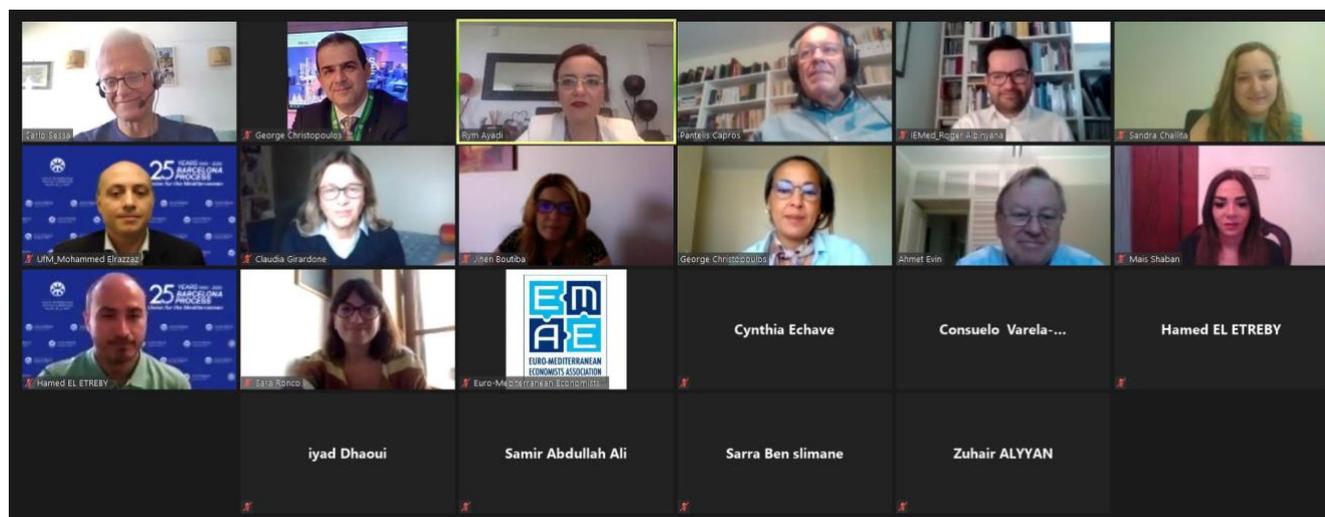
The BTV builds on the Euro-Mediterranean sustainable co-development scenario and the Blue Transition by 'Horizon 2030'<sup>1</sup> and the Transparent, Responsible, Inclusive and Sustainable (TRIS) development model introduced by [EMEA-EMNES Study N°7](#)<sup>2</sup>. These two concepts define the Blue Transition Scenario (BTS), its macro-economic assessment and a roadmap for TRIS Mediterranean for 2050. The Covid-19 global outbreak in 2020 was a major event that tested all health systems and related policies in Europe and in the Mediterranean. The Study provides a new framework to resist external shocks.

In this context, the **EMNES Regional Stakeholder Dialogue Webinar** will bring together EMNES researchers and UfM experts, in order to reflect and share views on key challenges that need to be tackled in the region, in order to advance towards new models of social inclusion, job creation, sustainable development and regional integration within the framework of the BTS.

The main objective of the meeting is to allow high-level interaction amongst a maximum group of 35-40 stakeholders (including representatives of the network and external experts, UfM officials and representatives of international organisations).

**Rapporteur** : **Sandra Challita – EMEA Research Fellow**  
**Sara Ronco – EMEA Researcher**

### Keynote Speech



<sup>1</sup> Ayadi, R. and Sessa, C. (2013), Scenarios Assessment and Transitions towards a Sustainable Euro-Mediterranean in 2030, *MEDPRO Policy Paper*, No. 9 / July 2013

<sup>2</sup> Ayadi, R. and Sessa, C. (2019), Blue Transition Policy Roadmap: Towards TRIS development in the Mediterranean, EMEA-EMNES Study N°7/March 2020.

## EMEA Webinar on Blue Transition Scenario 2050 for the Mediterranean: Towards TRIS Development Model

---

H.E. **Nasser Kamel**, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

The keynote speech started with noting the economic fragmentation in the region, it being the least integrated region in the world. The current crisis can be used to better focus and rethink regional integration, ensuring there is a reliable supply chain at the regional level. We need to think of the type of regional integration we should pursue for a bluer and greener recovery, in accordance with the Blue Transition Scenario (BTS). His Excellency underlined the engagement of the UfM in the promotion of regional integration, in collaboration with the international partners.

**Rym Ayadi**, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA) and Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES), Spain

Prof Ayadi presented the blue transition policy roadmap for a vision for the Mediterranean on the horizon of 2050. This vision is based on the Blue Transition Scenario, using the three-horizon methodology in a participatory foresight exercise by acknowledging the future we want. It can be achieved via a TRIS development model, based on 4 key principles: “Transparent” governance, “Responsible” living, “Inclusive” economy and “Sustainable” energy and environmental goals. And this strategy is underpinned in the SDGs, allowing the move from an efficiency framework to a resilience framework. The current pandemic can be a catalyst for the shift towards a BTS, or even a Green Transition scenario in some areas. This theoretical model can be applied at country levels and also at the regional level. The TRIS model was applied in the case of Lebanon.

**Sandra Challita**, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA) and Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES), Spain

Sandra presented the application of the model on Lebanon, in a context of a compounded crisis, aimed at establishing the country’s reconstruction on a more resilient basis.

## EMEA Webinar on Blue Transition Scenario 2050 for the Mediterranean: Towards TRIS Development Model

---

**Cinzia Alcidi**, Centre for European Policy Research (CEPS) and EMNES, Belgium

Cinzia had some insights into the process and evolution of the EMNES network, whilst being in charge of the EMNES academy. EMNES had achieved several objectives: gathering a group of young and more experienced researchers from the two shores of the Mediterranean, discussing similarities and differences across countries, and providing policy options and recommendations with a practical application.

*Discussion on Policy Roadmaps with Stakeholders (UfM, international organisations, business organisations, civil society and academics)*

**Mohammed Elrazzaz**, Project Analyst, Business Development and Employment Division, Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean

The current COVID pandemic has aggravated existing socio-economic inequalities and injustices but also has revealed great potential for more integration in certain sectors, such as trade, digitalisation and the green economy. The UfM priorities are human development and sustainable development by working on three main dimensions: policy, platforms and projects. Some examples of projects conducted by the UfM are Med for jobs and the permanent regional platform.

Mohamed emphasised the relevance and importance of linking academic knowledge and scientific dimension, as carried out in the work of EMNES. The applicability of TRIS, with a multi-stakeholder approach, is fully coherent with the regional and international framework. The UfM and EMNES join together on common priorities and with the priority of strengthening the collaboration.

**Ingrid Schwaiger**, Deputy Head of Unit, Head of Economic Section, DG NEAR, European Commission

On the BTS vision and roadmap, Ingrid agreed that the blue scenario is the closest to reality, whilst in some areas, we are in the red scenario and others the green one. Progress towards a greener scenario has lost a bit of traction during the last decade (Arab Spring, conflicts and Brexit).

On the European Commission side, there is a regional programme to pilot new initiatives, such as innovation start-ups, circular economy projects and the EU initiative for financial inclusion to provide access to finance. At the EU level, the new commission's main priorities are: the green deal, the financial cycle for the upcoming

## EMEA Webinar on Blue Transition Scenario 2050 for the Mediterranean: Towards TRIS Development Model

---

year and the economic recovery fund, engaging the private sector, whilst ensuring the policy's first principle.

To conclude, the political will is key to the recovery and we need to reflect on the following topics at a regional level: sustainable finance, new dynamics: EU Africa relations, other dynamics influencing the region and the integration of the lessons of COVID 19 for better economic resilience.

**Carlos Conde**, Head of Division, Middle East and Africa Division, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD and Member of the Advisory Committee of EMNES

The BTS and TRIS model are in line with the vision of the OECD that is being implemented on inclusive growth and a fair redistribution policy, on digitalisation and climate change and on more transparent governance. The OECD, however, puts more emphasis on the role of women's empowerment and gender equality. On implementation, data analysis plays a key role alongside the institutional landscape, the adoption of OECD and international standards and tools and policy convergence and policy harmonisation. Collaboration with the OECD can be on the monitoring of regional integration along with the UfM, the existing competitiveness programme (to increase competitiveness by supporting the private sector, technology and digitalisation, etc) with an inclusive orientation.

**Ekkehard Ernst**, Chief Macroeconomist, International Labour Organisation, Pantelis Capros, National Technical University of Athens and Member of the Executive Board of EMEA

Ekkehard focussed on youth unemployment, with the destruction of millions of jobs due to the COVID 19 pandemic which has mainly affected young people. Millennials are particularly hit, with 2 crises within less than 15 years. One particular aspect underlined is the precariousness of and the increase in informal jobs. For Arab states, the gender gap is severe on employment, with low education for women. Also, the NEET level (the Not in Education, Employment, or Training) for higher educated people is the highest in the world in the region. It shows a skill mismatch between education and the needs of the labour market, whilst the public education system does not provide the necessary skills for the market. In the region, the risk of automation is the highest amongst jobs held by young people.

## EMEA Webinar on Blue Transition Scenario 2050 for the Mediterranean: Towards TRIS Development Model

---

The policy implications of digitalisation on the labour market are: the need for improvement of education and delivery, with skill matching, the urgency of enhancing public employment services and the modernisation of administration and social security systems to reduce informality.

**Pantelis Capros**, Professor at the National Technical University of Athens.

The current progress of NDCs is not very satisfactory for the region (except for Morocco) whilst there is a great potential for the region, with investment prospects. The key barriers are the lack of high-level support for climate policy and the unstable political and economic conditions. On the recommendations, strategically, low carbon system energy is now feasible and affordable and the transformation has to combine electrification (higher access to modern energy services), renewables (including decentralised systems, autonomous and intelligent grids) and highly efficient appliance equipment and vehicles. Transition is highly capital intensive and reduces operating costs. To conclude, finance is key to implementing this transition with preconditions that have not yet been met (transparency, political stability, etc.).

**Carlo Sessa**, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA), Spain

Carlo commented on the interventions. The issue of eliminating fuel subsidies and how to restore policy making gradually is problematic. Also, how to support platforms for open dialogue with citizens in the Mediterranean in order to connect real policies and public opinion via a participatory process.

**Jihen Boutiba**, Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises (BUSINESSMED), Tunisia

BUSINESSMED is implementing a business country desk platform to provide digital services to SMEs via partnerships, business helpdesks and matching tools. They aim to enable SMEs and investors to access potential markets, and to trade in goods and services. But there is a need for concrete action on the ground, such as developing a social business model integrating all stakeholders. Before starting the TRIS in the region, we need to breakdown protectionism and to reduce tariffs and non tariff barriers. We also need to shift from an efficiency framework to a framework of resilience and transparency. Jihen underlined the importance of the role of social dialogue and capacity building and the empowerment of stakeholders, rather than mainstreaming the social business model.

## EMEA Webinar on Blue Transition Scenario 2050 for the Mediterranean: Towards TRIS Development Model

---

**Claudia Girardone**, Director of the Essex Finance Centre, and Member of EMNES Scientific Committee

She commented on the role of the financial sector in the policy roadmap, which is playing a key role with a focus on digitalisation. The key challenges in the region are: the cost of borrowing, information asymmetries, lack of access to banks, financial illiteracy and reliance on the informal cash sector.

During the pandemic, digitalisation has played a key role in financial inclusion due to the limit of human interaction, mobility and business operations and closed bank branches. And it is important to capitalise on cost saving digital technologies and information technology as the drivers for financial inclusion. The key players in the region providing basic financial services are: digital payment services, ATMs and Post offices. The banks/insurers need to make an effort to provide basic digital financial services. Also, there is a need for sustainable, affordable, financial literacy initiatives. And more work should be done on the potential risks of digital FI (consumer protection, money laundering, market power, cyber risks)

**Roger Albinyana**, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), Spain, and Member of EMEA Advisory Board

The Mediterranean region ranks amongst the worst in SDG indicators related to the environment, and there are major challenges surrounding social integration and inequality. THE BTS presents a key way to respond to the SDGs. We have an opportunity for the region to change the current status quo, using the TRIS imbedded within the BTS.

## Conclusions and Next Steps

**Rym Ayadi**, EMEA and EMNES, Spain

To conclude, we have observed in some cases a shift towards BTS and sometimes a GTS (Green Transition Scenario) that is encouraging for the future. And what we have seen is the possibility to apply the TRIS model at a country level. The next activities will concentrate on: keeping the dialogue going with different stakeholders, monitoring the status on the BTS, developing the BTS outlook to continue monitoring the BTS within TRIS and to go further in adaptations of the TRIS model.