



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN  
NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES  
الشبكة الأورو-متوسطية للدراسات الاقتصادية



Co-funded by  
the European Union

27-28 June 2019 Brussels, Belgium

# EMNES Annual Conference 2019

*Towards A Regional Integration and Employment  
Driven Socio-Economic Model in the Mediterranean:  
A Comprehensive Policy Roadmap*

01 Place du Congrès, Brussels, 1000

# Models to Enhance Regional Integration and Employment in the Mediterranean

The Euro-Mediterranean region brings together a diverse set of countries with different cultural backgrounds and economic, social and political realities, which are each developing at a varying pace and with variable geometry. In line with the complex dynamics of intertwined integration and disintegration characterising the region, Ayadi and Sessa 1 (2013) devised a number of alternative scenarios that could play out in Euro-Mediterranean relations by 'Horizon 2030', two of which were particularly interesting. In the worse-case scenario, labelled "red transition", the Mediterranean Sea becomes a dividing line between diverse but conflicting civilisations, leading to deeper political uncertainties and mounting economic and social difficulties, as tensions escalate between, but also within, the two shores, linked by the effects of contagion in the context of a number of issues, yet without being able to resort to cooperation. In the best-case scenario, labelled "blue transition", the Euro-Mediterranean region experiences an increasing heterogeneity where the active contribution of people, civil society and policymakers, as well as synergetic policies are built on existing areas of agreement between distinct yet related countries.

The latest developments on both shores of the Mediterranean Sea indicate that the region has been moving in the direction of the red transition. To the north, the European Union is grappling with a timid recovery from the economic crisis, with a dangerous imbalance between northern and southern European countries and the failure to find a satisfactory common response to the ongoing migration crisis. The related upsurge of nationalist sentiments, often disguised among populist claims and Brexit, has possibly turned the threat of fragmentation of the European Union from an adventurous speculation into a plausible scenario. To the south, Arab countries have witnessed disruptive social and political transformations, with both the democratic aspirations of large segments of the population and the rise of extremism in a small, yet growing minority erupting in a series of upheavals, destabilising the region's polities, economies and societies. These dynamics led to the exacerbation of tensions in several areas of the Mediterranean Basin, such as in Syria and Libya, where civil uprisings evolved into international theatres of war and different factions pursue their contradictory agendas with little regard for human and social consequences. In light of such developments, it is difficult to argue that Euro-Mediterranean relations delivered on the promise of achieving shared prosperity through enhanced political association and economic integration. In the decades leading to the 2011 Arab uprisings, Euro-Mediterranean policymakers seemingly equated stagnation with stability, choosing to side-line human rights and, more broadly, much needed political reforms, while issues such as combatting terrorism and controlling borders dominated the agenda. On the economic front, trade negotiations led to a substantial waiving of tariffs but failed to create the conditions or the emergence of regional value chains and sustainable jobs for the educated, notwithstanding the undoubted similarities between structural characteristics that could have been exploited by economies on both shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

Against this background, the objectives of the EMNES Annual Conference 2019 are twofold:

## Objective 1

At the EMNES Policy Conference on the 27 June 2019 the objective is to discuss the EMNES Blue Transition Scenario 2050 and the Comprehensive Policy Roadmap towards new models of regional integration, new models for socio-economic development with a special focus on employment creation in the Mediterranean. The new policies and models developed under this research phase will guide the research agenda of EMNES in the coming years;

## Objective 2

At the EMNES Scientific Conference on the 28 June 2019 the objective is to discuss and disseminate the results and conclusions of the work accomplished under EMNES policy research.

The EMNES Annual Conference 2019 includes EMNES Researchers, Associate Committee and Advisory Committee members, international economists and policy experts.

The Euro-Mediterranean Network of Economic Studies (EMNES) new socio-economic vision stems from the quest for long-term economic policy solutions aiming at more inclusive, sustainable and employment driven socio-economic development in the region.



# EMNES research covers the following areas

- The role of institutions and labour markets;
- The role of the private sector and Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in achieving an inclusive development model;
- Social business and social inclusion;
- Entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Finance, employment and inclusive growth;
- Human capital, skill mismatches, job creation and migration;
- Macroeconomic policies, business productivity and job creation;
- Economics of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership;
- Regional integration and job creation;
- Sustainable development;
- Scenario analysis and foresight;

This list of research topics is evolving.

Progress of work: [www.emnes.org](http://www.emnes.org)

# Policy Conference

Day 1: Thursday 27 June 2019

**08:30 – 09:00**

Registration

**09:00 – 09:15**

Welcome: Rym Ayadi, EMEA, CEPS  
Daniel Gros, CEPS

**09:15 – 09:45**

**Keynote Speech - Euro-mediterranean Integration And Cooperation: Achievements And Challenges**

Michael Koehler, Director of Neighbourhood South, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

**09:45 – 10:15**

**Keynote Speech - The Future of Regional Integration and EU-Med Partnership**

H. E. Fathallah Sijilmassi, Former Secretary General Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

**10:15 – 11:45**

**Panel Discussion: Regional Integration Beyond Trade?**

H. E. Hala Helmy El-Saeed, Minister of Planning and Administrative Reform, Arab Republic of Egypt

H. E. Jaloul Ayed, Former Minister of Finance, Tunisia

Hamed El Etreby, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

Michael Koehler, European Commission

H. E. Ibrahim Saif, Middle East Institute (MEI)

H. E. Fathallah Sijilmassi, Former Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

Moderator: Rym Ayadi, EMEA, CEPS

**11:45 – 12:15**

Coffee break

**12:15 – 13:00**

**Keynote Speech - Economic Integration of the NEAR**

Simeon Djankov, World Bank

**13:00 – 14:00**

Lunch

**14:00 – 14:45**

**Panel Discussion - Blue Transition Scenario in the Mediterranean and Policy Roadmap**

Presentation: Rym Ayadi, EMEA and CEPS

Panel: Henrike Trautmann, European Commission

Roger Albinyana, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

Ahmet Evin, Istanbul Policy Center (IPC)

Fatima Ezzahra Mengoub, Policy Center for the New South

Moderator: Cinzia Alcidi, CEPS

**14:45 – 16:00**

**Panel Discussion: Creating Jobs In The Mediterranean: How To Deal With Labor Markets Frictions?**

Presentation: Cinzia Alcidi, CEPS

Panel: Nathalie Creste, DG Employment,  
European Commission

Abdellatif Bencherifa, International University of Rabat (IUR)

Léo Vincent, HOMERe

Moderator: Nooh Alshyab, Yarmouk University (YU)

**16:00 – 16:30**

Coffee break

**16:30 – 17:45**

**Panel discussion: Creating Jobs in the Mediterranean: What Role for the Private Sector?**

Presentation: Chahir Zaki, FEPS

Panel: Hamed El Etreby, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

Carlos Conde, OECD

Jihen Boutiba, BUSINESSMED

Gilbert Doumit, Beyond Reform & Development (BRD)

Atilla Kaiser-Yuecel, GIZ

Moderator: Rim Mouelhi, IHEC Carthage

**17:45 – 18:00**

Conclusions

# Scientific Conference

Day 2: Friday 28 June 2019

**09:00 – 09:15**

Registration

**09:15-09:45**

**Keynote Speech: Drivers of Sustainability in Economics and Management**

Giovanni Ferri, Università di Roma LUMSA

**09:45 – 11:30**

**Session 1: Institutions, Macroeconomic Policies, Economic Development and Employment**

Presentation 1: Macro-policies and employment, Chahir Zaki, FEPS, Cairo University

Presentation 2: Institutions and unemployment, Yacine Belarbi, CREAD

Presentation 3: Wars and economic development – Case of Syria, Elena Perra, EMNES Fellow

Presentation 4: Institutions and bureaucracy, Ahmed Badawi, Freie Universität Berlin (FUB)

Discussant: Raja Almarzoqi, International Monetary Fund (IMF)

**11:30-11.45**

Coffee break

**11:45 – 13:00**

**Session 2: Inequality, Corruption and Financial Inclusion**

Presentation 1: Inequality and corruption, Vladimír Hlásny, EMNES Fellow

Presentation 2: Financial inclusion and inequality, Soumaya Ben Khelifa, IHEC Carthage

Presentation 3: Income inequality in Tunisia, Iyad Dhaoui, ITCEQ

Discussant: Barbara Casu, Cass Business School

**13:00 – 14:00**

Lunch

**14:00 – 14:30**

**Keynote Speech: Remittances: Treasure or Trap?**

Ralph Chami, International Monetary Fund (IMF)

**14:30 – 15:45**

**Session 3: Regional Integration and Trade**

Presentation 1: Regional integration indicators, Ioannis Charalampidis, E3-Modelling (E3M)

Presentation 2: Quantification of BTS, Ioannis Charalampidis, E3-Modelling (E3M)

Presentation 3: The effects of non-tariff measures on wage disparity in MENA, Nora Aboushady, FEPS, Cairo University

Presentation 4: Trade liberalisation and TFP, Aya Elewa, EMNES

Discussant: Giorgia Giovannetti, Università degli Studi di Firenze (UniFI)

15:45 – 16:45

**Special Session: EMNES Surveys and Indicators**

Presentation 1: Informality and social business survey,

Jacques Charmes, Institute of Research for Development, (IRD)

Rim Mouelhi, IHEC Carthage

Presentation 2: Financial inclusion survey, Sandra Challita, EMEA

Presentation 3: Entrepreneurship survey, Heba Zaki, FEPS, Cairo University

Presentation 4: Institutional uncertainty indicator, Serena Sandri, Yarmouk University (YU)

Discussion: EMNES Researchers

16:45 - 17:00

Coffee Break

17:00 – 18:00

**Session 4: Labour Markets and Migration**

Presentation 1: Migration and brain drain, Cinzia Alcidi, CEPS

Presentation 2: Job searching and social networks in Tunisia and Egypt, Moundir Lassassi, CREAD

Discussant: Zouhair El Kadhi, ITCEQ

18:00 – 18.15

Conclusions

## EMNES Partners

- Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Belgium
- Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA), Spain
- University of Cairo – Faculty of Economics and Political Science (FEPS), Egypt
- Institut des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (IHEC), Tunisia
- Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes (UEMF), Morocco
- Yarmouk University (YU), Jordan
- Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), Slovenia
- Free University of Berlin (FUB), Germany
- Institut Tunisien de la Compétitivité et des Études Quantitatives (ITCEQ), Tunisia
- Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV), Morocco
- Institute of Computers and Communications Systems - E3MLab, National Technical University of Athens (ICCS), Greece
- Istanbul Policy Center – Sabanci University (IPC), Turkey
- Institute of Studies for the Integration of Systems (ISINNOVA), Italy
- University of Barcelona Regional Quantitative Analysis Group (UB-AQR), Spain
- Centre International de Hautes Études Agronomiques Méditerranéennes – Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari (CIHEAM), Italy
- Forum for Euro-Mediterranean Innovation in Action (FEMIA), France
- Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM), Italy
- Bureau for Economic Theory and Application (BETA), France
- Research Center in Applied Economics for Development (CREAD), Algeria
- Tunis Business School (TBS), Tunisia
- Université Internationale de Rabat (UIR), Morocco
- Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS), Palestine
- Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB), Spain
- Jordan Strategy Forum (JSF), Jordan
- Centre for Banking Research (CBR), United Kingdom
- European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), Spain
- Libera Università Maria SS. Assunta (LUMSA), Italy
- Università degli Studi di Firenze (UNIFI), Italy
- Policy Centre for the New South (PCNS), Morocco
- German Jordanian University (GJU), Jordan



The Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies - EMNES aims to provide a renewed vision for socio-economic development in the Mediterranean region.



Co-funded by  
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EMNES is co-funded by the European Union – under Grant Contract N° ENPI/2014/354-488 and the EMNES Partners and Associates.

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