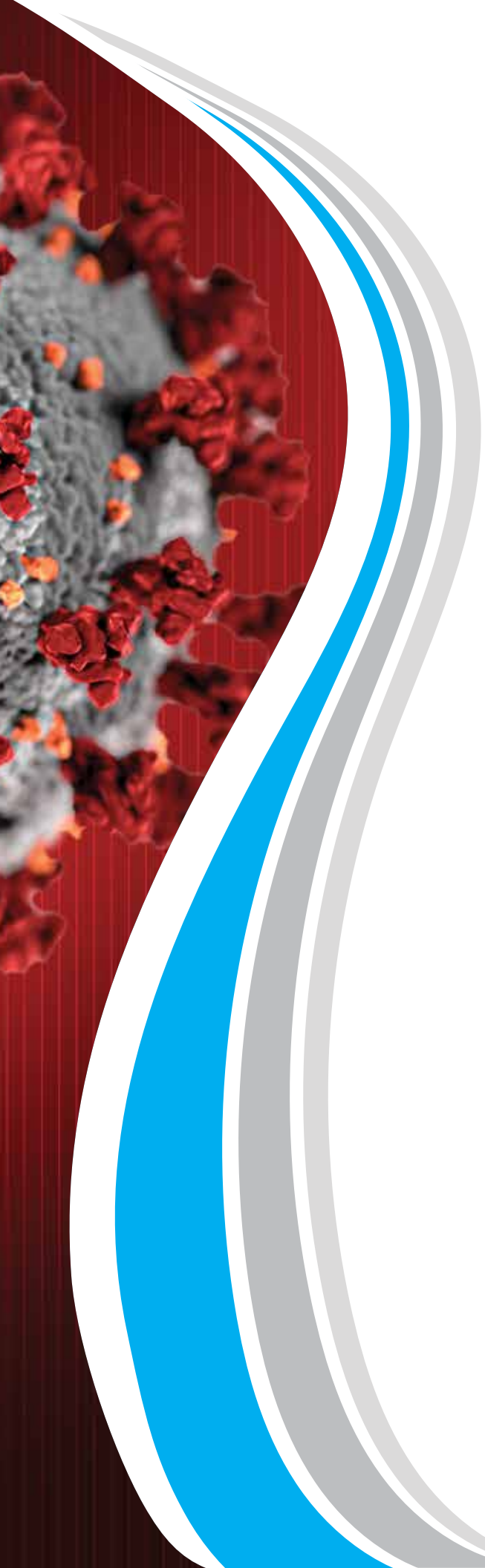


The COVID-19 pandemic took the world unprepared. On 11 March 2020, with 118,000 cases and 4,291 deaths detected in 114 countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 to be a global pandemic. More than one year after, on 15 April 2021, the total cases detected in the world are 139,361,009 of which 118,490,366 recovered and 2,991,750 deaths. The uncertainty surrounding the virus and its variants and its propagation, the undefined timeframe to effectively treat and vaccinate the populations, the consequences of the extensions of the period of lockdown and confinement and the absence of a comprehensive strategy to return to "normality" post lockdown without risking entering another infectious wave, together with the global nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, have put undue pressure on economies and the societies world-wide.

More than one year after the eruption of the pandemic, the impact of the COVID-19 has been detrimental to the economies, the societies and in particular to the education and training systems worldwide. In January 2021, globally 720 million children (41% of student population) experienced total or partial school closure.

The Mediterranean countries were largely caught unprepared to face such an overwhelming contagion. Over the last ten to fifteen years, the countries of the region have registered an increase in education level and attainment rates. However, this has not translated in an improvement of the labour market environment, which remains characterised by high unemployment, large proportions of informal employment, and high inactivity rates, particularly among youth and women. The region presents important gender and rural-urban dichotomies and disparities. Even though most of the countries are middle-income, they still suffer from inequalities linked to income distribution, raising poverty levels and high debt levels which reduce their room of manoeuvre via safety nets to respond to shocks.





On the 06 May, EMEA, in collaboration with the ETF and EMNES, is launching a new study that provides an overview of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in the Mediterranean countries, zooming in the education and training systems and policies, analysing their resilience in managing and resisting to the crisis and how lessons learned can be embedded in recovery plans and long term reform processes. It relies on data and information available as of January 2021. The study was co-funded by the European Training Foundation and is conducted during the new Torino Process.

EMEA will continue updating its EMEA Monitor launched in May 2020 to track on a weekly basis policy response performance of countries in Europe, Mediterranean and Africa. The monitoring covers all policy measures to respond to the pandemic, preparedness, consequences and effectiveness. The monitor is part of a regional policy research initiative on COVID-19 launched by EMEA on 18 March 2020.

The purpose of this webinar is to present the main finding of the new study and to discuss the latest policy developments in the field of education and labour markets taken by the countries in Mediterranean a towards a sustainable recovery path.

Moderator:



Cristina Giner
Correspondent, Euronews

Cristina Giner is freelance journalist and producer for Euronews. She has worked as news correspondent and producer for European reports on science, politics, culture, etc. (Unreported Europe, Smart Regions, Futuris) since 2006. She holds a M.A in International Relations (IBEI) and has been professor of Theory of International Relations at the European Business School in Barcelona. She worked as Press Officer for the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) from 2014 to 2016 and collaborated with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) editing cooperation reports. She collaborates as well with the Euromed communication department as consultant.

Speakers:



Prof. Rym Ayadi
President and Founder
Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association

Professor Rym Ayadi is the Founder and President of the Euro – Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA). She is Founder and Director of the Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES). She is Senior Advisor at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS); Professor at the Business School (Former CASS), City University of London; and Member of the Centre for Banking Research (CBR); Academic member and Chair (2018-Present) of the European Banking Authority – Banking Stakeholders Group (EBA- BSG). She is also Associated Scholar at the Centre for Relationship Banking and Economics (CERBE) at LUMSA University in Rome.



Abdelaziz Jaouani

Senior Human Capital Development Expert, European Training Foundation (ETF)

Aziz Jaouani has over 30 years of professional experience firstly as a teacher and director of VET and higher education schools as well as field experience in managing EU skills reform programmes. He has also been an entrepreneur in the textile and clothing sector in Morocco. Since 2007, Aziz is a senior expert on human capital development and skills systems reform in the European Training Foundation (ETF) where he has been leading many structuring programmes such as GEMM (Governance and Employability in the Mediterranean) and Torino Process in all ETF partner countries. A graduate engineer from the Ecole Supérieure des Industries Textiles, Lyon, Aziz also holds a Master of Sciences from the Mohammed V University of Oujda and a Bachelor on enterprises management from ISCAE-Casablanca.

Discussants



Mohammed Elrazzaz

Senior Expert, Union for the Mediterranean

Mohammed Elrazzaz (Cairo, 1976) is a Barcelona-based staff member of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) since 2013. Part of the Economic Development and Employment Division at the Secretariat, he is in charge of Creative Economy, Digital Economy and Social Economy. Prior to his engagement with the UfM, he had worked for 10 years as Financial Analyst and Head of Investor Relations at the Commercial International Bank (CIB), Egypt's premiere bank, where he received the Goldman Sachs 'Transaction of the Year' Award in 2006 for the successful gearing of the bank's shareholding structure. In parallel, he is Professor of Mediterranean Heritage at the International University of Catalonia in Barcelona (UIC) since 2015. His second book, titled "The Mediterranean: A Shared Heritage" was published by the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI, Slovenia) in 2018. Mr. Elrazzaz holds a BA in Economics (Cairo University), Postgraduate in History (University of Granada) and MA in Arts and Cultural Management (UIC, Barcelona).



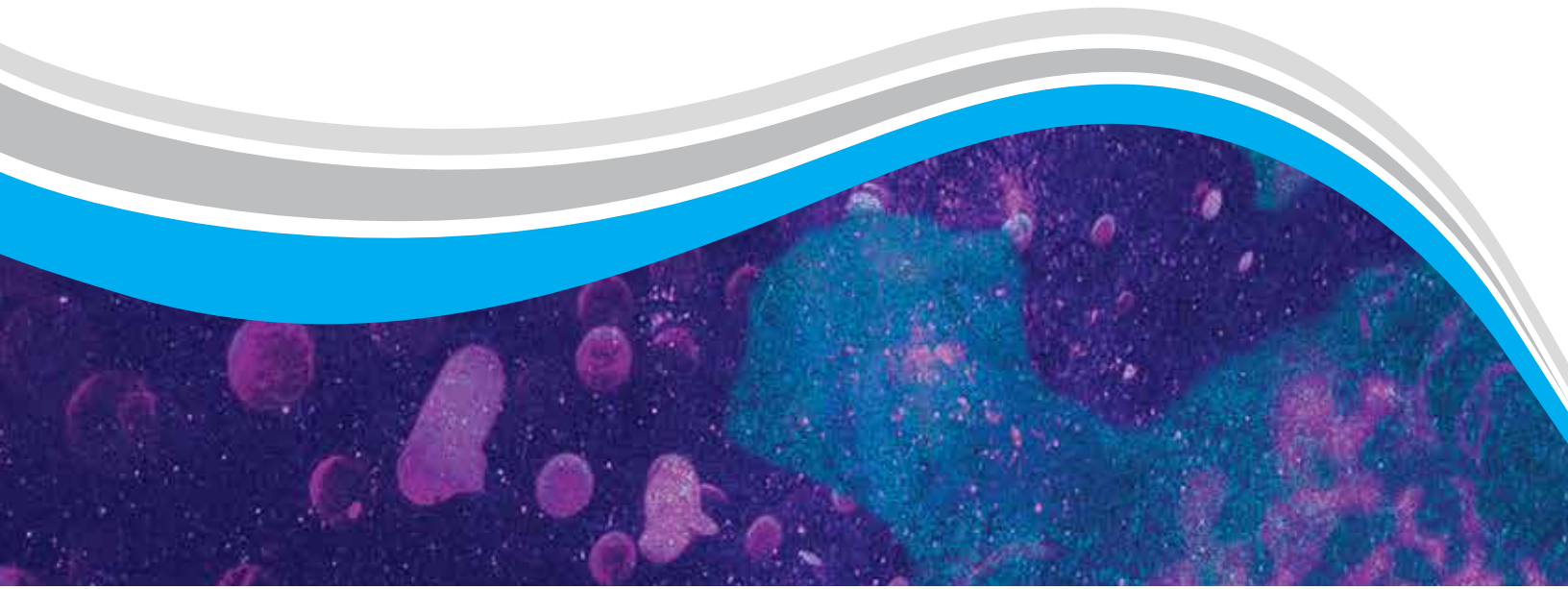
Prof. M.D. FACS Mohamed El-shinawi
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Egypt

Mohamed El-Sayed El-Shinawi M.B.B.CH., M.Sc., Ph.D., M.D, FACS is the Vice President of Galala University in Egypt. He is a Professor in the Department of General Surgery-Faculty of Medicine -Ain Shams University, Cairo Egypt , Advisor to the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine , Maryland University , Baltimore, USA, Co-Chair of the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area Initiative "PRIMA Foundation ,Barcelona, Spain, Board member of the National Training Institute, Member of the UFM Bureau for Research and Innovation, Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and Consultant of General Surgery in several hospitals in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Also, he is the Regional Lead Trainer of the Sequential Trauma Educational Programms "STEPS course" conducted in Egypt and Sudan in collaboration with Maryland University, USA. He is the President of Ain Shams Medical Student Research Association and a member of a several prestigious local and international associations and societies as the American Association of Cancer Research and board member of Breast and Gynecological International Cancer Society. Dr. Shinawi is responsible about all International relations and agreements in the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and had shared in many activates in the ministry including and not limited to supervising the RDI program, Egypt-EU partnership Unit, Board Member of Egypt-US higher committee in STI, finalizing many agreements between Egypt and worldwide countries.



Prof. Najib Hamouti
Head Career Center ESITH, Morocco

Najib Hamouti is an expert in employability and higher vocational education with more than 20 years of experience in the field of training and managing skills projects in Morocco and the MENA region. His main areas of interest include employability, skills policies, education and training governance, and promotion of youth entrepreneurship. Najib is currently the head of a Career Centre at ESITH, a graduate school in Casablanca. He has received the "Foundations Award for Innovation" from the Global Career Services Summit in April 2021.



SAYE THE DATE: Next webinar taking place on June 1r M 15:00:00 CET
on Debt transparency and infrastructure development and financing for COVID-10 recovery in Africa

