

## BRIDGING THE GAP IN EURO-MEDITERRANEAN RELATIONS: YOUTH AS DRIVERS OF COHESION

V Euromed Young Researchers Forum  
16–17 September 2022, Mollina (Spain)

Europa Room, Frida Khalo Building

### AGENDA

**Day 0 – Thursday 15 September:** Arrival and free evening

**Day 1 – Friday 16 September**

**09h00 – 09h10**

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**Jenny GILBERT.** Project Manager of EuroMeSCo.

**Justine BELAÏD.** Research Officer of EuroMeSCo.

**09h15 – 11h00**

**Working session: Spotighting narratives and social cleavages in the Euro-Mediterranean region in 2022**

This session will be moderated by **Mihai Chihaia** (Euromed Young Researchers Forum alumni and Policy Analyst at the European Policy Centre), **Clara Süß** (Doctoral Researcher at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt) and **Nabil Ferdaoussi** (Euromed Young Researchers Forum alumni and Doctoral Research Fellow at HUMA-Institute, University of Cape Town). Participants will be allocated up to 8 minutes to present their concept notes and research proposals. During the session they will receive feedback and comments.

*Taking stock of the disruptive narratives which have shaped public opinions and deepened social cleavages across societies in the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine, which has multifaceted and significant impacts on the Mediterranean region, this session aims to reflect on factors threatening social cohesion, peace and reform efforts currently. It sheds a light on new priority areas for a more cohesive, inclusive and peaceful Euro-Mediterranean region with young people at its centre.*

Participants will present their research in the following order:

**Abdullatif SLEIBI.** Researcher, Leiden University.

*Tackling Disinformation, Misinformation, and Inaccuracy: Euro-Med Digital Opportunities.*

*Ukraine/Jordan*

**Máté SZALAI.** Senior Lecturer, Corvinus University.

*Hedging, Neutrality, and Bandwagoning – The strategy of Middle Eastern and North African states to the War in Ukraine*  
*Hungary*



**Omar RAAFAT.** General Secretary, Mediterranean Youth Foundation.  
*The Ukrainian Crisis Through the Eyes of Africa. Introduction to Eastern-Russian Modern Influence*  
Egypt

**Ariadna ROMANS I TORRENT.** Political Consultant and Master's Student, University Pompeu Fabra.  
*The opportunity of climate diplomacy as an integration tool for young citizens in the Mediterranean region integration*  
Spain

**Matías IBÁÑEZ SALES.** Programme Officer, Sustainable Development and Regional Integration Department, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed).  
*The Refugee Crisis Double Standards: The role of media and society in influencing EU's responses to the Ukrainian and Syrian crisis*  
Spain

**Afaf ZARKIK.** Research Assistant, Policy Center for the New South (PCNS).  
*Euro-Mediterranean region: Towards a new resilient bargain for shared energy security*  
Morocco

**Jony ESSA.** Neubauer Research Associate, Institute National Security Studies (INSS).  
*Changing Perceptions of the US amid China's Rise in Middle Eastern States/Eastern Mediterranean*  
Israel

**Bledar FETA.** Researcher, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP).  
*The War in Ukraine from the Mediterranean Point of View*  
Albania/Greece

11h00 – 11h30

**Coffee Break**

11h30 – 13h00

**Working session: Actors and ways to overcome divisions**

This session will be moderated by **Jusaima Peregrina** (Euromed Young Researchers Forum alumni and Doctoral Researcher at the University of Granada) and **Farah Al Shami** (Research Fellow at the Arab Reform Initiative). Participants will be allocated up to 8 minutes to present their concept notes and research proposals. During the session they will receive feedback and comments.

*This forward-looking session focuses on actors at different levels of Euro-Mediterranean societies, initiatives and frameworks most likely to impulse reconciliatory and cohesive advances. It will look at a variety of actors and means, with particular attention paid to the role of youth in face of these challenges.*





Participants will present their research in the following order:

**Rimgaile KASPARAITE.** Junior Researcher, Vytautas Magnus University.  
*Debunking EU Southern Neighborhood's political opinion influencers' narratives of Russia's invasion of Ukraine from the Baltic perspective: What should be the EU's role in effectively countering Russia's disinformation? Lithuania*

**Alessandro LAMONICA.** Post-doctoral Research Fellow, University of Sienna.  
*Youth participation in the Euro-Mediterranean region: Initiatives and obstacles Italy*

**Meray MADDAH.** PhD candidate, University of Konstanz.  
*Rethinking the Youth in Jordan: An Overlooked Social Capital Lebanon*

**Hajar IDRISSE.** Project Manager and Research Associate, Moroccan Institute for Policy Analysis.  
*Freedom of Expression in Times of Conflict: Ukraine-Russia war Morocco*

**Massimiliano CASALE.** Trainee, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).  
*A fit-for-youth digital transition: building social media literacy Italy*

**Zienab ANWAR.** Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning Manager, Terre des Hommes.  
*Introducing The New Generation of Social Cohesion Advocates in Egypt Egypt*

**Xhenis SINA.** Research Project Coordinator, Institute of Migration, Development and Integration (IMDI).  
*Empowering Youth against Extremism Albania*

13h00 – 14h45

Lunch

15h00 – 16h45

**Workout: Training Session on Policy Recommendations**

This training will be delivered by **Ilke Toygür** (SWP Berlin & UC3M).

17h00 – 19h00

**Workshop Sharing (Joint Programme with UYD)**

19h00 – 20h00

**Networking dinner buffet (Joint Programme with UYD)**



**Day 2 – Saturday 17 September**

**09h00 – 11h00**

**Workout: Training Session on Foresight Techniques**

This training will be delivered by **Abdeslam Badre** (Mohammed V University, Rabat).

**11h00 – 11h30**

**Coffee Break**

**11h30 – 13h00**

**Practitioners Session: Euro-Mediterranean Strategic Communication**

**Luis Miguel BUENO PADILLA**. EU Regional Media Officer - Spokesperson in Arabic for the MENA region, European External Action Service.

*Disinformation is a rampant issue all across the Euro-Mediterranean region, as in other parts of the world, which has gained further traction through the COVID-19 crisis and the war in Ukraine. The European Union (EU), both internally and in its external relations, thrives to fight disinformation effectively. With regards to the EU's Southern Neighbourhood in particular, the fight against disinformation – identified as a key priority for the advance of the digital transition calls for in its new Agenda for the Mediterranean - is very much linked to the safeguard of values of democracy, peace and fundamental rights. Participants will be given the opportunity to learn from a high-profile EU official and to exchange perspectives on the matter.*

**13h00–15h00**

**Lunch**

**15h00–16h30**

**Policy Talks: The Role of Youth in Shaping Public Policy**

**Josep FERRÉ**. Executive Director, Anna Lindh Foundation.

*Youth is an essential pillar in any policy or initiative aimed at strengthening cohesion. In the Euro-Mediterranean region, youths are essential to civic life but oftentimes lack opportunities, both in the labour markets and in policymaking spheres. In face of new current challenges, awareness about the role of youth has grown significantly and, in that regard, the EU is launching a new regional programme "Youth Package" aiming at promoting active citizenship of youth through engagement in the society and labour market. In this session, participants will exchange views with Josep Ferré, Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation, in charge of the Young Mediterranean Voices component of the EU-funded package.*

**16h30-17h00**

**Coffee Break**



17h00–19h00 **Final Plenary (Joint Programme with UYD)**

20h00 – 21h30 **Dinner and Glocal Farewell Fest (Joint Programme with UYD)**

**Day 3 – Sunday 18 September:** Departure

## **EuroMeSCo Workout – Young Researchers**

The EuroMeSCo Workout training sessions described below are designed to be practical and interactive training programmes. They involve a peer-to-peer dimension, as the trainers are from the think tank and research community themselves.

### **OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE OF THE TRAINING SESSIONS**

**Writing Policy Recommendations.** Ilke Toygür, CATS Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Studies (SWP Berlin) & Professor, University Carlos III of Madrid.

This training session aims to understand the dynamics of writing policy recommendations with the ultimate idea of turning research into policy. For this aim, there are various steps a scholar should take. This training session is designed to go through these steps (understanding the dynamics of policy making, defining the audience, analysing the tools available – who, what and why).

#### **Focal Points of the Training Session:**

- Understanding the dynamics of policy making, your audience and fitting into policy cycle. Essentials of publishing effective policy recommendations.
- How to write policy recommendations? How to make research findings easily digestible? Key characteristics (format, length, use of accessible language and outlets). Communicating policy recommendations effectively.

**Foresight Techniques for Research and Think Tank Work.** Abdeslam Badre, Expert in Policy Development and Associate Professor, Mohammed V University in Rabat.

This training session aims to strengthen the knowledge and practices of think tankers and researchers in terms of foresights techniques and processes. The participants will have hands-on practice on strategic foresight as an approach to explore, address, and leverage future uncertainties in strategy and policy developments. They will be trained on how,



why, and when to use strategic foresight through a combination of dedicated discussion time and skill-building activities.

**Focal Points of the Training Session:**

- Using Foresight to scan the complexities of the political environment of policy-making; monitor trends, uncertainties, weak signals, and wildcards; exploring alternative futures under complexity; building future visions; identifying key scientific and technological areas.
- Understanding how different variables affect the choices and selections of given foresight techniques and strategies in the policy formulation and implementation phases.
- Framing issues to offer policy-recommendations based on the best available evidences; and convince policy-makers on the best course of actions taking into account diverse stakeholders' interests in the policy formulation and implementation processes.





## WHO'S WHO?

### THE TEAM



**Jenny GILBERT**

*Project Manager of EuroMeSCo*

She is in charge of coordinating and managing the activities of the EuroMeSCo network and project.

From 2018 to 2021 she worked as a Project Analyst in the Social and Civil Affairs Division of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). She also worked as a Grant Administrator for EU projects at the European University Continuing Education Network (eucen), and between 2012 and 2015 she was the Project Manager of the SGroup – Universities in Europe network.



**Ana López**

*Events and Dialogue Officer of EuroMeSCo*

She is responsible for the organisation of events and the production of related outputs, and manages databases of policy-makers and experts. Previously she worked for Tomás Alcoverro, correspondent for La Vanguardia in the Middle East, Spanish Instructor at the German International School Beirut, Events Officer at the Instituto de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores de Granada and the Spanish Embassy in Beirut. She is fluent in Arabic.



**Justine BELAÏD**

*Research Officer of EuroMeSCo*

She is in charge of the Young Researchers Lab and research activities of the project. She previously worked with the Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) in Barcelona. She also dedicates some time to research and holds a double bachelor in Political Science from Sciences Po Bordeaux and Cardiff University a master in International Relations from Sciences Po and a master in European Interdisciplinary Studies from the College of Europe .

## THE TRAINERS



### Ilke TOYGÜR

Ilke Toygür is CATS Fellow at German Institute for International and Security Studies (SWP Berlin) and teaches “Geopolitics of Europe” at University Carlos III of Madrid. Her main research areas include European integration, EU institutions, political parties and elections in Western Europe, Geopolitics of Europe and transatlantic relations, and Turkey’s relations with the West. At the beginning of her career, she worked in Istanbul and Brussels for Economic Development Foundation (IKV), a Turkish think-tank focusing on the EU and Turkey-EU relations. Right before completing her PhD, she was granted the prestigious Mercator-IPC Fellowship in Istanbul Policy Center, Sabancı University. After finishing her doctorate studies, she worked for five years at Elcano Royal Institute, the leading Spanish think-tank on foreign policy.



### Abdeslam BADRE

Badre is a policy development expert, and associate professor at Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco. His research seeks to analyze current norms that hamper the progress and livelihood of migrants, women, and youth as social groups. He aims at generating evidence-based recommendations that could inform national and regional policies, providing comparable data across borders on key countries in MENA and Southern Mediterranean regions, while addressing the causes of entrenched marginalization and socio-economic transformation. He has coordinated the EuroMeSCo Joint Study Group 2021: *Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia: A Comparative Perspective on Maghreb Countries Migration Cooperation with their West African Neighbours*.



## THE SPEAKERS



**Luis Miguel BUENO PADILLA**

*EU Regional Media Officer - Spokesperson in Arabic for the MENA region, European External Action Service*

He is a Spanish diplomat and has been appointed as the spokesperson of the EEAS in Arabic for the MENA region. He is the first person to ever hold this role. Before that, he worked in Brussels on the relations of the EU with Algeria and has served in Spanish embassies in Jordan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sudan.



**Josep FERRÉ**

*Executive Director, Anna Lindh Foundation*

He has more than 15 years of experience in conceptualising and leading policy-oriented research projects and an extensive background in cooperation development programmes and networks management. He was the Director General (2017-2021) and the Managing Director (2007-2021) of the European Institute of the Mediterranean and has held other positions related to Euro-African and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

## THE LAB BOARD



### **Farah AL SHAMI**

Farah is a Research Fellow at the Arab Reform Initiative (ARI). Her work focuses on Arab Youth Trajectories in Contexts of Conflict; Social Protection in the Post-Covid19 Era in the Arab Region; and the Role of New Labour Movements in Transitions in Lebanon, Iraq, Sudan and Algeria; among others.



### **Mihai CHIHAIA**

Mihai Sebastian Chihai is a Policy Analyst in the Europe in the World Programme at the European Policy Center (EPC). He works mainly on Middle East political and security issues, EU-Middle East relations, as well as EU foreign policy aspects and European defence integration.



### **Nabil FERDAOUSSE**

Nabil Ferdaoussi is a PhD candidate in Social Anthropology at the University of Cape Town and Research Fellow at HUMA-Institute for Humanities in Africa. His research focuses on migration, borders and race seeks to bridge the gap between critical academic inquiry and policy analysis.



### **Jusaima MOAID-AZM PEREGRINA**

Jusaima is a PhD candidate in Political Sciences at the University of Granada (Spain). Her thesis project applies a multi-track approach for analysing the UN-led peace mediation for Syria. Her research focuses primarily on peace mediation and dialogue, women participation, and civil society inclusion in mediation.



### **Clara-Auguste SÜß**

Clara is a doctoral researcher at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) and a member of PRIF's research group on radicalization. Besides a broader interest in social movements, social justice, and mobilization, her PhD project focuses on Islamist radicalization, political transformation, and marginalization in Tunisia.

## THE PARTICIPANTS



**Zienab ANWAR**

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning Manager, Terre des Hommes.



**Nour-Sadate BENHIMA**

Teaching assistant, Sultan Moulay Slimane University.



**Massimiliano CASALE**

Membership Manager, SDSN Youth Mediterranean.



**Abderrahman EL KARMAOUI**

PhD candidate, Mohamed V University.



**Jony ESSA**

Neubauer Research Associate, Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), and a doctoral candidate at the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations.



**Bledar FETA**

IR Specialist and Researcher, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP).



**Matias IBAÑEZ SALES**

Programme Officer – Sustainable Development and Regional Integration Department, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed).



**Rimgaile KASPARAITE**

Junior Researcher, Vytautas Magnus University



**Alessandro Giovanni LAMONICA**

Lecturer in Cultural Diplomacy and a Horizon 2020 post-doctoral Research Fellow, University of Siena.



**Meray MADDAH**

Doctoral Researcher, University of Konstanz.



**Omar RAAFAT**

General Secretary, Mediterranean Youth Foundation.



**Ariadna ROMANS I TORRENT**

Student of the International Development Studies Masters Programme, University of Amsterdam.



**Xhenis SINA**

Research Project Coordinator, Institute of Migration, Development and Integration (IMDI).



**Abdullatif SLEIBI**

Research Assistant - DRIVE Project on Radicalization, Leiden University.



**Máté SZALAI**

Senior lecturer, Corvinus University of Budapest.



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Research Assistant, Policy Center for the New South (PCNS).

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