



## Bridging Divides: Exploring Youth Approaches to Conflict Resolution in a Changing Euro-Mediterranean Region

VI Euromed Young Researchers Forum  
9 October 2023, Madrid (Spain)

The Euromed Young Researchers Forum gathers a selected group of young researchers each year in a city of the Euro-Mediterranean region to **discuss specific issues relating to Euro-Mediterranean relations**. They exchange ideas about how a new generation of researchers can contribute to policy debates with other relevant stakeholders, including policy-makers. Participants also **benefit from capacity building sessions to improve their communications and research skills** and have **access to remunerated publishing opportunities**. This initiative aims to revitalize the community of regional experts, fostering the exchange of new insights and ideas that drive progress in the study of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The 2023 edition of the Forum will be about **“Bridging Divides: Exploring Youth Approaches to Conflict Resolution in a Changing Euro-Mediterranean Region”**.

The Euromed Young Researchers Forum is part of the [Euromed Young Researchers Lab](#), an initiative of the [EuroMeSCo: Connecting the Dots](#) project, co-funded by the European Union and the European Institute of the Mediterranean. The Euromed Young Researchers Lab aims to boost the research capacities of young experts across the Mediterranean, give visibility and recognition to their work, strengthen exchanges and stimulate research on issues of common interest, in particular in the fields of economic development, migration and security.

### Background

The changing global landscape has profoundly impacted conflicts and conflict resolution mechanisms in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The current dynamic geopolitical environment is characterized by shifting power dynamics, the emergence of new conflicts, and the ascent of influential actors. Traditional alliances and power structures are being tested, triggering intensified competition for resources and influence, which has created fertile ground for conflicts to arise or escalate in the Euro-Mediterranean region. These conflicts are shaped by a new paradigm of warfare and security, with hybrid conflicts including cyber warfare and disinformation campaigns becoming increasingly prevalent.

The evolving nature of conflicts in the region requires innovative and adaptable approaches to conflict resolution and security strategies in order to effectively address the complex challenges arising from the changing global landscape. With the emergence of new conflicts and shifting dynamics, traditional approaches alone are insufficient to tackle the intricate interconnections of these conflicts. In this context, technology has provided valuable opportunities for the development of innovative conflict resolution mechanisms. New dynamics of conflict resolution have already started emerging, with external powers such



as China imposing themselves as mediators, or with Lebanon and Israel reaching ground-breaking agreements.

As the world continues to evolve, the Euro-Mediterranean region must navigate these geopolitical shifts while striving to find sustainable and inclusive solutions to conflicts that arise in this dynamic environment. For this reason, the VI Euromed Young Researchers Forum aims at exploring new types of conflicts in the Euro-Mediterranean region and the innovative approaches that young people can bring to conflict resolution. The Forum aims to bring together a diverse range of young researchers and practitioners to share their insights and experiences, fostering a collaborative and interdisciplinary dialogue on conflict resolution and peacebuilding in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

### **Call for proposals**

The aim of this call is to select up to 30 young researchers and students from the Euro-Mediterranean region to contribute to the Youth Forum by presenting their research proposals. Participants will be selected based on their CV and short research proposal.

The Euro-Mediterranean region has been facing new types of conflicts, driven by various factors such as technological advancements, and changing political landscapes. The Euro-Mediterranean agenda recognizes the need for cooperation and dialogue among the countries of the region to address these conflicts and promote peace and stability.

The Forum is inviting diverse abstract submissions that encompass a broad spectrum of perspectives on conflict resolution. These submissions could address (but are not limited to) several sub-themes, such as identifying the underlying causes of emerging conflicts, exploring youth-driven approaches to conflict resolution, understanding the role of young people in peacebuilding, embracing feminist peacebuilding strategies, fostering cooperation and dialogue, and examining the intricate relationship between socio-economic development and conflict resolution. Additionally, the forum strongly encourages submissions that navigate the intricacies of conflicts in the Euro-Mediterranean region, taking into account historical, political, social, and technological factors. The overarching goal is to uncover innovative and non-traditional approaches to conflict resolution, while recognizing the critical need to address root causes in order to establish sustainable peace within the region.

Up to 6 research proposals will be selected to be published in the form of a Policy Brief.

### **WHO CAN APPLY?**

The candidates shall:

- ✓ be researchers or students between 18 and 35 years of age who have attained at least a bachelor's degree;



- ✓ be affiliated to a research centre, a university or organisation based in one of the [42 UfM countries](#) (priority will be given to researchers affiliated to EuroMeSCo member organisations);
- ✓ demonstrate interest in the Forum's themes;
- ✓ demonstrated academic and/or professional background with regards to the Forum's theme is desirable.

## HOW TO APPLY?

1. Please submit your **CV of no more than 2 pages** with the subject line of "Application for Euromed Young Researchers Forum 2023" to euromesco@iemed.org **and** fill in the online [APPLICATION FORM](#) by including a short research proposal (up to **350 words** excluding references in English describing the theme, research objectives and scope of the paper as well as an indicative initial reference list) that should be related to the Forum themes.

***Deadline for applications is 18 June 2023, 23:59hrs CET.***

2. The selection process will be completed by **26 June 2023**. Proposals will be selected based on objective criteria including: a concise and structured presentation of the research objectives and of the paper, the originality of the topic and its policy relevance as well as the inclusion of an indicative list of references. All applicants will be notified by e-mail of the results of their application.
3. Pre-selected participants will be asked to prepare a short **Concept Note** (1-2 pages) on their selected research topic by **16 July 2023**.
4. Among the pre-selected participants, **up to 10 authors** will be invited to present their papers in the Working Sessions of the VI Euromed Young Researchers Forum 2023. Authors will get feedbacks and inputs from other experts and researchers, to improve their research.
5. After the Forum, at least 6 authors will be selected to develop and convert their Concept Notes into a [EuroMeSCo Policy Brief](#) (about 3,000 words).
6. The final version of the Policy Brief will be **peer-reviewed** and if successful, will be published as part of the EuroMeSCo Policy Brief series.
7. Each Policy Brief will be awarded with **€900 gross<sup>1</sup>**, provided that the peer review is positive and that the Policy Brief meets the established quality standards. The payment will be activated upon submission of the final document.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that a 24% Spanish Income Tax deduction applies for all those paid as natural persons.





## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- ✓ This event is scheduled to take place in Madrid (Spain) in the framework of the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference on **“From the Euro-Mediterranean partnership to a Euro-Mediterranean geostrategic alliance”**. In addition to participating in the sessions of the VI Euromed Young Researchers Forum, participants will also have the opportunity to share experiences and learn from other experts and practitioners taking part in the panel sessions of the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference on 10 October.
- ✓ The Euromed Young Researchers Forum will last 1 full day (9 October). Participants are expected to travel to Madrid on 8 October and depart on 10 October in the afternoon.
- ✓ The IEMed will provide round-trip flight tickets, accommodation expenses and meals during the Forum, and will cover visa costs if necessary<sup>2</sup>.
- ✓ Selected participants will be provided with more detailed information about the logistics and operational aspects of the Forum once their participation is confirmed.

## CALENDAR

The contest will consist of the following stages:

1. Launch of the Call for Participants: [6 June 2023](#)
2. Deadline for applications: [18 June 2023, 23:59hrs CET](#)
3. Notification of pre-selected participants: [26 June 2023](#)
4. Submission of the concept note (between 1-2 pages) of the Policy Brief proposals: [16 July 2023, 23:59 CET](#)
5. Notification of participants selected to present their proposals: [26 July 2023](#)
6. Submission of the Policy Brief by [20 November 2023](#)
7. Review and publication of the EuroMeSCo Policy Brief: [December 2023- January 2024](#)

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<sup>2</sup> IEMed will book the return flights, hotel and cover meals for the duration of the event. Visa costs may also be reimbursed. Please note that full participation in the Forum is a pre-requisite for the reimbursement of any Forum related cost.

