



BRIDGING DIVIDES: EXPLORING YOUTH APPROACHES TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN THE CHANGING EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGION

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

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AGENDA

09h00 – 09h15 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Ambassadors Room

Karim HAUSER. Head of Culture and International Relations, Casa Árabe.

Roger ALBINYANA. Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

Jorge PIÑERA. Research Officer of EuroMeSCo, IEMed.

09h15 – 11h00 **Working session 1 – Exploring Conflicts in the Euro-Mediterranean Region: New Approaches and Strategies**

Ambassadors Room

This Working Session will examine conflict resolution and geopolitical dynamics in the MENA region, looking at Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in conflict resolution and democracy support, and the role of the EU. Additionally, the session will explore youth perspectives on peace and conflict in the intra-Kurdish ethnic conflict, as well as the complexities of proxy wars in the case of Libya, advocating for new conflict resolution approaches that are decolonised, human rights-based and that actively involve youth and civil society. This Working Session will also evaluate the effectiveness of crisis management policies and mechanisms of the EU and NATO in the Mediterranean region. Energy resources in the context of Eastern Mediterranean on the Cyprus conflict will be analysed, exploring how this dimension affects the region's stability.

Moderation: Sara NOWACKA. Analyst Middle East and Africa Program, The Polish Institute of International Affairs – PISM.

EU Strategic Autonomy in the Euro Mediterranean Cooperation: New ENP Approaches towards Conflict Resolution and Democracy Support.

Valentina GRUARIN. Junior Researcher, Austrian Institute for International Affairs – OIIP.

Intra-Ethnic Conflict Analysis Through Youth Lens.



Mehmet ILHANLI. Co-Director, Young Peacebuilders of Turkey.

New Conflict Resolution Approaches in Proxy Wars: The Case of Libya.

Pablo PASTOR VIDAL. Academic Assistant in the European Interdisciplinary Studies (EIS) department at the College of Europe – CoE.

Crisis Management in the Mediterranean: Assessing the Efficacy of EU and NATO Policies and Exploring Innovative Approaches.

Brahim RAMLI. Project Manager, VJW International.

Energy Resources of the Eastern Mediterranean and their Impact on the Cyprus Conflict.

Natália TKÁČOVÁ. Project Coordinator, Prague Security Studies Institute – PSSI.

Discussant: Lina KHATIB. Director of the Middle East Institute, SOAS, University of London.

Open debate with active participation of the VI Euromed Young Researchers Forum participants.

11h00 – 11h30 **Coffee Break**

11h30 – 13h00 **Working session 2 – Shaping Peace in the Euro-Mediterranean: Unravelling the Role of Youth in Conflict Resolution**

Ambassadors Room

This Working Session will focus on exploring and discussing the significant role of young people in understanding and addressing emerging conflicts in the Euro-Mediterranean region. It will analyse the critical role youth play in promoting sustainable peace in fragile and conflict affected countries, how youth-centred feminist activism can be fostered for inclusive conflict resolution and how the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda can be fostered within the European framework. The Working Session will also delve into the potential of social media as a peace-building tool, as well as on the role of Erasmus+ as a platform for peace.

Moderation: Francesco SCHIAVI. Associate Research Assistant for the MENA Centre, Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale – ISPI.

The Role of Youth in the MENA Region: Between Fuelling Conflict and Sustaining Peace.

Aya BADR. PhD Candidate, Cairo University.



Erasmus+ as a Platform for Peace.

Reef ITZHAKI. Government and External Relations Coordinator, the Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies – MITVIM.

Youth-Centred Feminist Activism in the Euro-Mediterranean Region.

Mariam MECKY. Independent Researcher.

Meaningful Inclusion? Enhancing the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda in Euro Mediterranean Conflict Resolution.

Jusaima MOAID-AZM PEREGRINA. PhD Candidate in Political Science, University of Granada.

The Digital Generation: Social Media as an Instrument for Youth-led Conflict Resolution.

Abdullatif SLEIBI. Senior Data Analyst & Project Officer, PAX for Peace.

Discussant: Amel BOUBEKEUR. Sociologist, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales – EHESS.

Open debate with active participation of the VI Euromed Young Researchers Forum participants.

13h00 – 14h00 **Lunch**

14h00 – 16h00 **EuroMeSCo Workout: Parallel training sessions**

Think Tank and Track II Diplomacy

Room 5

This training will be delivered by **Lina KHATIB**, Director of the Middle East Institute, SOAS, University of London.

Conducting Fieldwork in times of crisis

Room 6

This training will be delivered by **Amel BOUBEKEUR**. Sociologist, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales – EHESS.

16h00 – 16h30 **Coffee Break**

16h30 – 18h30 **Practitioners session**
Auditorium



Participants in this session will have the opportunity to engage with relevant stakeholders to gain a better understanding of the complex dynamics and challenges facing the region. Through this practitioner's session, participants will be able to explore and discuss strategies for empowering young people to be key actors in building a more peaceful and stable Euro-Mediterranean region. The session will count with an EU official involved in peacebuilding, an EU official with a journalist background and three representatives from civil society organisations.

Moderation: Karim HAUSER. Head of Culture and International Relations, Casa Árabe.

Speakers:

Nadim HOURY. Executive Director, Arab Reform Initiative – ARI.

Camille LIMON. Coordinator and member of the Executive Board – Diplomeds – The Council for Mediterranean Diplomacy.

Liel MAGHEN. Co-founder, Elham - the Day After.

Guillem RIUTORD SAMPOL. Head of Division, Conflict Prevention and Mediation Support (ISP 2), European External Action Service.

Natalia SANCHA. Former Correspondent of "El País" in Lebanon and Syria; Strategic Communications Officer, Task Force South – MENA and Gulf, Strategic Communications, and Information Analysis, (SG STRAT 2), European External Action Service.



LAB BOARD

Reem ALHADDADIN. Researcher, West Asia and North Africa Institute – WANA.

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Abdullatif SLEIBI. Senior Data Analyst & Project Officer, PAX for Peace.

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PARTICIPANTS

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Valentina GRUARIN. Junior Researcher, Austrian Institute for International Affairs – OIIP.

Siwar HAKIM. Researcher, International Security and Development Center – ISDC & PhD Candidate, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Mehmet ILHANLI. Co-Director, Young Peacebuilders of Turkey.

Ezgi IRGIL. Research Fellow, the Swedish Institute of International Affairs (Utrikespolitiska Institutet) – UI.

Reef ITZHAKI. Government and External Relations Coordinator, The Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies – MITVIM.



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Mariam MECKY. Independent Researcher.

Jusaima MOAID-AZM PEREGRINA. PhD Candidate in Political Science, University of Granada.

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Iva NASKOVA. Programme Assistant, National Youth Council of Macedonia & Young European Ambassador, EU Regional Communication Programme for the Western Balkans.

Samir NASSAR. Economic Researcher, American University of Beirut- Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs – AUB-IFI.

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