



Navigating between Climate Action and Energy Security: A Shared Agenda for the EU and the MENA countries

VII Euromed Young Researchers Forum
5-6 March 2024, Rabat (Morocco)

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 revitalise 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 2024 edition of the Forum, in collaboration with the Policy Center for the New South / PCNS, will be about **“Navigating between Climate Action and Energy Security: A Shared Agenda for the EU and the MENA countries”**.

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 challenge of balancing energy security and climate change has become increasingly acute in recent years. As the demand for energy continues to increase, and amid geopolitical changes, countries face a growing need to secure their energy supplies. However, this must be done in a way that does not compromise efforts to address the global threat of climate change, primarily caused by the burning of fossil fuels, the main source of global energy. Policymakers are faced with the difficult task of finding ways to transition to low-carbon energy systems and increase energy efficiency, while also ensuring that energy security is not compromised. The shift towards renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, is still in its early stages and requires significant investment in infrastructure and technology, making the transition away from fossil fuels costly and challenging.

This dilemma between climate change and energy security is a complex issue with significant implications for the global community, including the EU, and the EU's Southern Neighbourhood countries. These actors face similar challenges; bilateral cooperation could potentially be a key solution to promote sustainable and resilient energy systems. By



working together, resources and expertise can be pooled to advance the transition to low-carbon energy systems and promote energy security. However, this bilateral cooperation also faces challenges, such as the lack of coordination and coherence among the different actors involved. Each region has its own priorities and interests that can hinder cooperation and collaboration on climate change and energy transition. Therefore, there is a need for a shared vision and common goals that can guide cooperation and ensure that all parties benefit from the outcomes.

Against this backdrop, this VII Euromed Young Researchers Forum aims to foster a dialogue among young researchers, policymakers, and experts on the complex issues related to climate action and energy security. It will provide an opportunity to reflect on the outcomes of COP28 and the implications for the EU and countries in the MENA region to identify areas where further action and collaboration are needed, while it will also enable young researchers to showcase and exchange their innovative research solutions and initiatives on the dilemma between climate action and energy security, in view of inspiring and mobilising further action by governments, civil society, and the private sector and to foster a common agenda for the EU and the countries in the MENA region.

Call for proposals

The aim of this call is to select up to 40 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 a short research proposal.

The global challenge of balancing energy security with the imperative to address climate change is pressing, as increasing energy demand intersects with geopolitical shifts. Policymakers grapple with the intricate task of transitioning to low-carbon energy systems while maintaining energy security, necessitating significant investments in renewable sources. The VII Euromed Young Researchers Forum seeks to facilitate a dialogue among policymakers, experts, and young researchers on these complex issues, aiming to identify collaborative solutions and inspire coordinated action between the EU and the MENA region for sustainable and resilient energy systems.

The Forum is inviting diverse abstract submissions that encompass a broad spectrum of climate action and energy security. These submissions could address (but are not limited to) several sub-themes, such as:

- The challenges of transitioning to low-carbon energy systems while ensuring energy security.
- The role of renewable energy sources in addressing climate change and promoting energy security.
- The impact of climate change on energy security and vice versa.
- The potential benefits and challenges of bilateral cooperation between both regions on climate action and energy security.
- Innovative solutions and initiatives for addressing the dilemma between climate action and energy security.



- The implications of global energy resource scarcity on energy security and climate action.
- The impact of COP28 outcomes on the EU and countries in the MENA region.
- The importance of a shared vision and common goals in promoting cooperation and collaboration on climate action and energy transition.
- Policy frameworks and ecosystem for bilateral cooperation (institutions, programmes, international donors...).

Up to 5 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 2024" 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 10 December 2023, 23:59hrs CET.

2. The selection process will be completed by **22 December 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 **15 January 2024**.





4. Among the pre-selected participants, **at least 10 authors** will be invited to present their papers in the Working Sessions of the VII Euromed Young Researchers Forum 2024. Authors will get feedbacks and inputs from other experts and researchers, to improve their research.
5. After the Forum, at least 5 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 gross¹**, 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.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- ✓ This event is scheduled to take place in Rabat (Morocco).
- ✓ The Euromed Young Researchers Forum will last 1 day and a half (5 and 6 March). Participants are expected to travel to Rabat on 4 March and depart on 6 March in the afternoon.
- ✓ The IEMed will provide round-trip flight tickets, accommodation expenses and meals during the Forum, and will cover visa costs if necessary².
- ✓ 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: **28 November 2023**
2. Deadline for applications: **10 December 2023, 23:59hrs CET**
3. Notification of selected participants: **22 December 2024**
4. Submission of the concept note (between 1-2 pages) of the Policy Brief proposals: **15 January 2024, 23:59 CET**
5. Notification of participants selected to present their proposals: **22 January 2024**
6. Submission of the Policy Brief by **31 March 2024**
7. Review and publication of the EuroMeSCo Policy Brief: **March-June 2024**

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

² 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 person in the Forum is a pre-requisite for the reimbursement of any Forum related cost, including visa costs.