



# EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2024

## Mediterranean Foresight: Exploring Future Scenarios in the Euro-Mediterranean Region

### CALL FOR EXPERTS

#### WHO CAN APPLY?

1. Experts in foresight, with foresight group facilitation experience
2. Regional experts on the topics of the three foresight working sessions as described below (under Topics Description)

#### INTRODUCTION

The world is increasingly complex, turbulent, and contested. It is facing the highest number of active conflicts since the end of World War II, with emerging actors gaining significance in the international order. Meanwhile, we navigate an era of technological advancement (AI), widespread misinformation and climate change continues to accelerate. The Euro-Mediterranean region is not immune to these challenges. The longstanding conflicts in Syria and Libya have recently been joined by the escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Similarly, the interests and stances of actors such as Russia, China, the US, or Turkey have changed drastically in recent years and months, and migration in the Mediterranean is a constant that may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Both the world and the Euro-Mediterranean region are entering a new phase of redesign in this context of radical uncertainty in which the scope and speed of change is exceptional.

Ahead of political changes in Brussels with the European elections scheduled in June and a new Commission to be then assembled, the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2024 aims to shed light on possible future scenarios of cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region. This will be done, among other segments of the conference, through **Foresight Working Sessions**.

#### ABOUT THE CALL

The present Call for Experts relates to these Foresight Working Sessions. It seeks to engage 3 experts or teams of experts (1 or 2 experts for each Foresight Working Session) to: design the foresight exercise, facilitate the working session, and produce a EuroMeSCo Foresight Paper after the event. Experts selected are expected to take part in all phases of the assignment.





The selected experts will act as facilitators/moderators of the **Foresight Working Sessions** that will be held in the framework of the [EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2024 "Mediterranean Foresight Conference: Exploring Future Scenarios in the Euro-Mediterranean Region."](#) Each Foresight Working Session will have 20-40 participants. The experts of the EuroMeSCo network participating in the Conference will actively take part in the sessions, whose aim is to reflect on possible future scenarios that may take place in the Euro-Mediterranean region. These sessions will have a length of **2 hours** and are thought to be interactive, practical (rather than theoretical) and involve a peer-to-peer dimension.

As a follow-up to the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2024, selected experts will be asked to write a **EuroMeSCo Foresight Paper** consolidating the findings from the sessions. Each Paper should have a length of **5,000-8,000 words**, excluding final references and footnotes. The papers will be expected to explore possible future scenarios of cooperation within the Euro-Mediterranean region and serve policy-making purposes.

## TOPICS DESCRIPTION

The three working sessions will be on the following issues. Proposals may relate to one of these three issues:

- **Post-election political scenarios in the Euro-Mediterranean region.** The year 2024 has been marked as "the election year." Elections are set to take place in the EU, the US, and several countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region. This session will focus on analysing what will unfold in the region following the electoral outcomes of the various elections. What will happen in the Euro-Mediterranean region if Trump wins the US elections? Will populist or Eurosceptic forces gain ground in Europe? What impact will these elections have on the Euro-Mediterranean region?
- **The future of the conflict in Gaza:** The attacks on the 7 October 2023 have triggered an escalation of the long-standing conflict between Israel and Palestine. This session will focus on analysing possible scenarios for the future of this conflict. Is it possible to envision peace? What role will the EU and the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region play? What might be the spillover effects in the region? How will it shape Israel's relations with Arab countries? How will it impact relations with neighbouring regions such as the GCC countries? What long-term consequences might this conflict have?





- **Prospects for energy cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region:** The Russian invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent EU sanctions imposed on Russia compelled the EU to seek new energy trade partners. In this context, Southern Mediterranean countries have strengthened their cooperation with the EU in the energy sector. This session will analyse the future prospects of energy cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region. What will the energy cooperation between the EU and the countries in the southern neighbourhood look like? How will climate change impact energy cooperation? Will energy cooperation between the EU and the countries in the southern neighbourhood lead to greater integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region?

## ELIGIBILITY

The Call for Experts is open to experts and researchers affiliated to institutes from the EuroMeSCo network (which will be given priority), as well as to other researchers and experts from the Euro-Mediterranean region.

## SELECTION AND PROCESS

- Interested candidates should submit a short description of the Session proposed (up to **500 words excluding references** in English) through this [APPLICATION FORM](#) by **27 February 2024**. The Session Proposal should include the following:
  - Understanding of the topic to be tackled.
  - Objectives of the session.
  - Methodology of the session
- **3 proposals** will be selected (1 per Session). Experts will be selected based on the information they provide in the application form and in particular based on the proposal of the session (in 500 words). Joint proposals, i.e. two experts running one session together (e.g. a mixed team made of one foresight expert or and one researcher with expertise on each of the issues discussed), will be accepted.
- All applicants will be notified by e-mail of the results of their application.
- The selected experts will be asked to prepare a short Concept Note (2-3 pages) developing the content and the methodology of the session to be distributed to the participants ahead of the session. The Concept Note should be submitted by email to [euromesco@iemed.org](mailto:euromesco@iemed.org) by **24 April 2024**.
- Selected experts will facilitate the parallel **Foresight Working Sessions** during the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference, taking place on 16-17 May 2024. The fee





for facilitating each Session will be **€1,160 gross**<sup>1</sup>. Flights and accommodation will be covered for selected experts.

- During the session, authors will gather feedback and inputs from other experts and researchers, to be used to write the **EuroMeSCo Foresight Paper**.
- Following the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2023, authors will be expected to submit a **EuroMeSCo Foresight Paper** consolidating the primary findings from the sessions. Each Paper should have a length of **5,000-8,000 words**, excluding final references and footnotes in line with the Foresight Paper Guidelines which will be shared with selected experts. It should have high scientific, policy and technical quality and should be an original work. The papers will be expected to explore possible future scenarios of cooperation within the Euro-Mediterranean and serve policy-making purposes. Foresight Papers should be submitted by **6 June 2024**.
- The Foresight Paper will be **peer-reviewed** and will be published as part of the EuroMeSCo research Foresight Papers series.
- Each Paper will be awarded with **€2,700 gross**, provided that the peer review is positive and that the provided Paper meets the established quality standards. The payment will be activated upon submission of the final document.

## CALENDAR

This activity will consist of the following stages:

1. Launch of the Call for Experts: **13 February 2024**
2. Deadline for proposals submission: **27 February 2024**
3. Notification of proposals selection to the applicants: **18 March 2024**
4. Submission of the Concept Note (between 2-3 pages) of the Session to be distributed among participants: **24 April 2024**
5. Facilitation of Foresight Working Session during EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2024: **16-17 May 2024**.
6. Submission of the EuroMeSCo Foresight Paper: **6 June 2024**
7. Review and publication of the EuroMeSCo Foresight Paper: **End of June 2024**

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<sup>1</sup> If the expert is paid as a natural person, according to Spanish Law, a 24% Spanish income tax deduction applies (for persons with a fiscal residence outside of Spain) and a 15% Spanish income tax deduction applies (for persons with a fiscal residence in Spain). This applies to both the trainer gross fee and the author fee.

