VIII Euromed Young Researchers Forum

Shaping the Digital Future of the Euro-Mediterranean Region

15-17 September 2025, Mollina (Spain)

AGENDA

Day 0 - Sunday 14 September: Arrival

21: 00	Welcome dinner
22:00	Welcome evening -Music with UBANDA (Joint programme[1])

Day 1 - Monday 15 September

09:30 -11:00	Introduction to UYD - Joint programme
11:00 -11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 -13:00	Roundtable on digital safety -Joint programme
13:00 -14:30	Lunch
14:30 -16:30	EuroMeSCo Working session 1: *Digital Transformation on Migration: Exploring risks and opportunities*

This session will encompass an in-depth discussion of three research proposals addressing the intersection of migration governance, technology, and human rights in the Mediterranean. The studies examine how AI-driven surveillance systems, initially developed in conflict zones, are increasingly deployed along EU external borders and migration routes, often through opaque public-private partnerships; analyse the integration of Artificial

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[1] **Joint Programme:** Plenary moments gatherings all the people involved in the event (organisers, trainers, participants, volunteers). It consists of series of initiatives of different nature: from informal and playful evening activities to more formal debates to explore the annual theme with representatives from governments and experts from the field. The Joint Programme also includes musical sessions and moments of interaction with the local community. The Joint Programme is coordinated by the North-South Centre and implemented by the Joint Team through collaborative and creative non-formal education methods.

Intelligence tools in EU asylum procedures, assessing their implications for fundamental rights and procedural guarantees under the AI Act; and explore a counter-forensic approach to repurposing digital and AI technologies currently used for border securitization to trace and identify missing migrants in Morocco. Collectively, these contributions aim to shed light on the ethical, legal, and humanitarian challenges posed by technological transformations in migration management.

Discussant: Tasnim Abderrahim. Non-Resident Scholar, Middle East Institute.

Chair: Zienab Anwar. Country Programme Officer at International Labour Organisation (ILO).

RESEARCH PROPOSALS

From Palestine to the Mediterranean: How EU policies fuel a global surveillance trade, and how to stop it? **Dima Samaro.** Executive Director, Skyline International for Human Rights (SIHR).

AI and Asylum. Quo Vadis? **Konstantina Liontou.** Young Legal Professional specialising in European Union Law.

Harnessing the New Technologies of Border Control for Migrant Disappearance: A Counter-Forensic Approach to Missing Migrants in the Mediterranean **Nabil Ferdaoussi.** HUMA-Institute for Humanities in Africa, University of Cape Town.

16:30 -17:00	**Coffee Break**
17:00 -18:00	**Networking Fair - Joint programme**
18:00 -20:00	**Free time**
20:00	**Dinner**
21:00	**Roleplay activities -Joint programme**

Day 2 -Tuesday 16 September

09:00 -11:00	**EuroMeSCo Workout 1 (training session) -Policy Analysis Writing**

Trainer: Tasnim Abderrahim. Non-Resident Scholar, Middle East Institute.

11:00 -11:30	**Coffee Break**

11:30 -13:00	**EuroMeSCo Working Session 2:** *Harnessing Digital Transformation for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future in the Euro-Mediterranean region*

This session presents seven research proposals focusing on digital transformation as a driver for sustainability, inclusion, and human development in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The session is divided into two thematic clusters:

- Digital Sustainability and Innovation: Examining open waste data for a circular MENA; AI-driven site suitability and community engagement for urban greening; digital extension services in Morocco; and digitalizing ports in the Atlantic and Mediterranean basins for enhanced efficiency, security, and inclusive sustainability.

- Digital Rights, Youth, and Gender: Addressing the Right to Be Forgotten in AI systems and youth participation in data governance; exploring technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) against migrant women; and promoting youth-led digital economy initiatives to enhance skills and employment opportunities in the MENA region.

Together, these studies offer comprehensive insights and policy recommendations to harness digital technologies for an inclusive, sustainable, and rights-respecting future.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Digital Sustainability and Innovation

Discussant: Manuel Langendorf. Senior analyst and editor at Middle East Minds.

Chair: Giuseppe Scandone. President & Environmental Specialist at QG Enviro.

Open Waste Data for a Circular MENA. A youth-led roadmap for digital transparency and green transition **Elias El Hayek.** Lawyer and Senior Legal Advisor at Transparency International Lebanon.

AI-Driven Site Suitability & Community Engagement for Urban Greening in the Euro-Mediterranean Region **Rami Khoucha.** Algerian Forestry Engineer.

Digital extension services in Morocco: key actors, Gaps, and Policy Pathways **Safaa Drissi Bourhanbour.** PhD Candidate at Mohammed V University in Rabat (UM5).

Digitalizing Ports in the Atlantic and Mediterranean Basins: A Strategic Lever for Efficiency, Security, and Inclusive Sustainability **Mahmoud Arbouch.** Senior Economist at the Policy Center for the New South (PCNS).

Digital Rights, Youth, and Gender

Discussant: Gihan Abouzeid. Senior Advisor at the Arab Network for Development (ANND).

Chair: Natália Sabol Tkáčová. Project Manager, Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

Who Owns My Data? Youth, AI, and the Right to Be Forgotten in the Euro-Mediterranean Region **Mariem Daoud**. Master's student in Innovation Management.

Invisible Borders: Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence Against Migrant Women in the Euro-Mediterranean Region **Martina Canesi**. Postgraduate student in Diplomatic Studies at LUISS School of Government.

Youth Against Hybrid Threats: Comparative Analysis of Youth-led Reactions to Gendered Disinformation and Electoral Inteference in the Euro-Mediterranean Space **Natália Sabol Tkáčová.** Project Manager for Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom office in Prague.

13:00 –14:30	**Lunch**
14:30 -16:30	**EuroMeSCo Workout 2 (training session) -Advocacy Strategies for Think Tankers and Researchers**
	Trainer: Gihan Abouzeid. Senior Advisor at the Arab Network for Development (ANND)
16:30 -17:00	**Coffee Break**
17:00 -18:00	**Practitioners Session -The Use of AI in Knowledge Development and Research**
18:00 -20:00	**Free time**
20:00	**Dinner**
21:00	**Intercultural Evening -Joint programme**

Day 3 -Wednesday 17 September

09:30 -11:00	**Limitations of AI I - Joint programme**
11:00 -11:30	**Coffee Break**
11:30 -13:00	**Limitations of AI II - Joint programme**
13:00–15:00	**Lunch**

Departure