

Assessing the Future of Migration Governance in the Mediterranean

Date: 21-24 June, 2026

Hotel: Lindner Hotel Vienna Am Belvedere - JDV by Hyatt (Address: Rennweg 12, 1030 Wien, Austria)

Conference Room: 'Margarite and Lavendel' (Ground Floor)

Concept Note

The Euro-Mediterranean region is entering a pivotal period in migration and mobility governance. The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and the New Pact for the Mediterranean (2025) seek to reshape regional cooperation through a more strategic and integrated approach to migration management. Their objectives include strengthening border controls, reforming asylum systems, expanding legal mobility pathways, addressing labour shortages in Europe, and promoting development and stability across the Mediterranean.

However, important challenges remain. Migration governance in the region has long been shaped by competing priorities, unequal partnerships, and fragmented institutional frameworks. Security concerns often clash with economic and demographic needs, while cooperation between European and Southern Mediterranean countries is complicated by differing interests and capacities. This workshop examines whether the new Pact framework can foster greater policy coherence and shared responsibility, or whether it will continue to reproduce existing tensions between security, mobility, and demographic change.

Drawing on the forthcoming EuroMeSCo Joint Policy Study *"Aligning or Fragmenting? The Future of Euro-Mediterranean Migration Governance under the EU Pact(s)"*, the event will bring together experts, policymakers, civil society representatives, and key stakeholders to examine these questions in light of the study's findings.

Objectives

- Present and discuss the findings of the EuroMeSCo Joint Policy Study, fostering an evidence-based dialogue among participants.
- Assess the coherence and effectiveness of the emerging Pact(s) framework in aligning competing policy dimensions — including border management, asylum reform, legal mobility, and development cooperation — across the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- Explore the dynamics of Euro-Mediterranean partnership, examining how divergent interests, asymmetric capacities, and shifting political contexts shape cooperation between European and Southern Mediterranean actors on migration governance.
- Inform EU policymakers on the study's key recommendations, providing actionable insights to guide the design and implementation of a more coherent, equitable, and forward-looking Euro-Med migration governance framework.

Participants:

A multi-stakeholder workshop jointly organized by the Regional Programme Political Dialogue South Mediterranean of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS PoDiMed) and the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), bringing together experts, policymakers, civil society representatives, and practitioners from both shores of the Mediterranean.

Agenda

Sunday, 21 June

Arrival of international participants throughout the day

19:30 Informal Welcome Dinner (for participants staying at the hotel)

Meeting point: Hotel Lobby

Monday, 22 June

09:30 – 10:00	Opening session — Welcome addresses by Winfried Weck, Director, KAS PoDiMed Conference Room: ‘Margarite and Lavendel’ (Ground Floor)
10:00 – 11:00	Keynote address — Introducing the new Pact on Migration and Asylum <i>Presentation of the Pact and its stages of implementation followed by Q&A with attendees</i> - Facilitator: Zine Labidine Ghebouli, Consultant and Scholar on Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation, Arab Reform Initiative - Keynote: Marcin Antoni Pruss, Policy Officer, DG HOME, European Commission
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	Session I: Mobility, security, and demographic needs: scenarios for the Euro-Mediterranean <i>Participants examine the capacity of the EU Pact(s) to align competing policy dimensions across the Euro-Mediterranean region</i> - Chair: Xavier Aragall, Programme Manager, IEMed - Speaker: Mehmet Gökay Özerim, Director and Chair, EU Jean Monnet Chair and Centre of Excellence on Migration and Diversity, Yasar University
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break (Hotel Restaurant, ground floor)
14:30 – 16:00	Session II: Externalisation under the Pact: Italy and Spain as case studies - Chair: Xavier Aragall, Programme Manager, IEMed - Speaker: Francesco Pasetti, Research Fellow, CIDOB
16:00 – 16:15	Coffee
19:30	Networking Dinner

Tuesday, 23 June

09:00 – 10:30	Session III: Policy Recommendations and Pathways towards more Coordinated, Equitable, and Sustainable Migration Governance in the Region - Chair: Umberto Profazio, Associate Fellow, Conflict, Security and Development, International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) - Speaker: Amina Magouri, Executive Director, SALMA Dialogue - Speaker: Helena Hahn, Policy Analyst, European Migration and Diversity, European Policy Centre - Speaker: Kyriaki Chatzipanagiotou, Policy Officer, Mediterranean Migration & Asylum Policy Hub (MedMA) - Speaker: Mohamed Dakhli, CEO, MD Audit
10:30- 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00- 12:30	Closing session — Synthesis of key takeaways, policy recommendations, and closing remarks by co-organisers
12:30	Lunch (Hotel Restaurant, ground floor)
19:30	Dinner

List of Participants:

- Dr. Agnieszka Kulesa, Lead Social Sciences Researcher, Center for Social and Economic Research CASE
- Amina Magouri, Executive Director, Strategic Alliances: Latin America Meeting Africa – SALMA Dialogue
- Anne-Lise Robin, Senior Co-ordination Adviser, Office of the Special Representative & Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR CTHB)
- Danila Chiaro, Project Manager, ICMPD
- Dr. Derek Lutterbeck, Deputy Director, MEDAC
- Francesco Pasetti, Research Fellow, CIDOB
- Gorica Atanasova-Gjorevska, Senior External Co-Operation Officer, External Co-operation, Office of the Secretary General
- Guido Tintori, Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- Helena Hahn, Policy Analyst, European Migration and Diversity, European Policy Centre
- PD Dr. Judith Kohlenberger, Head of Institute, Research Institute for Migration and Forced Displacement Management (FORM)
- Kristof Bender, Deputy Chairman and Senior Analyst, European Stability Initiative (ESI)
- Kyriaki Chatzipanagiotou, Policy Officer, Mediterranean Migration & Asylum Policy Hub (MedMA)
- Marcin Antoni Pruss, Policy Officer, EU Commission
- Prof. Dr. Mathias Czaika, Head of Department, PhD Co-Coordinator Department for Migration and Globalisation, University for Continuing Education Krems
- Mehmet Gökyay Özerim, Director and Chair, EU Jean Monnet Chair and Centre of Excellence on Migration and Diversity, Yasar University
- Mohamed Dakhli, CEO, MD Audit

- Tasnim Abderrahim, Analyst, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC)
- Umberto Profazio, Associate Fellow, Conflict, Security and Development, International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)
- Xavier Aragall, Programme Manager, IEMed
- Zine Labidine Ghebouli, Consultant and Scholar on Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation, Arab Reform Initiative
- Winfried Weck, Director, KAS PoDiMed
- Bilel Kriaa, Program Manager, KAS PoDiMed

Wednesday, 24 June

Departure of Participants throughout the day