



Mercator Dialogue on  
Asylum and Migration

## EMNES-MEDAM Workshop Economic Integration of Refugees in the Countries of First Asylum Mission: Possible?

**Date:** 8 June 2017

**Venue:** CEPS, Conference Room, Place du Congrès 1, 1000 Brussels

The southern Mediterranean region has close ties and a long history of cooperation with EU member states in the areas of trade, foreign investment, and migration. The need for further cooperation has become urgent since the outbreak of war in Syria and the resulting increase in numbers of displaced persons, many of whom have found asylum in southern Mediterranean countries. Many refugees will not be able to return to their country of origin, at least not in the foreseeable future. This raises issues about their integration in the countries of first asylum.

The workshop brings together researchers and policymakers to discuss the economic opportunities of refugees and other immigrants in the southern Mediterranean countries. The following questions, among others, will be addressed: Are these countries economically able to accommodate large inflows of migrants? How is the labour market integration process currently being managed and what challenges do host countries face? What new policies and tools can be developed and how can cooperation with the EU help?

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This workshop is organised by CEPS, Economic Policy Unit  
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### About [EMNES](#)

The Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies is a network of partners and associate research institutions and think tanks working on the Euro-Mediterranean region and co-funded by the European Commission. EMNES aims to provide a renewed vision for socio-economic development in the Mediterranean region, focusing on employment creation, youth, social inclusion, and sustainable development. EMNES areas of research include the role of institutions, private sector and micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises and employment creation, role of education, skill mismatch and migration, finance, regulation and the real economy, and regional integration. EMNES will produce reports, scientific and policy papers and will disseminate its findings through the organisation of annual conferences and workshop meetings bringing together leading researchers, academics, policymakers and representatives of the civil society to discuss and debate optimal policies for the future of the region. EMNES is built on four core principles: independence, excellence, policy relevance and deep knowledge of Euro-Mediterranean affairs.

### About [MEDAM](#)

The Mercator Dialogue on Asylum and Migration is a practical research and consultation project that addresses pressing issues in asylum and migration and aims to provide evidence-based solutions from a primarily economic perspective. With a view to strengthening Europe's ability to act, MEDAM intends to fill the gaps in policy research on asylum and migration and to develop recommendations for decision-makers at the national and European levels. Funded by Stiftung Mercator, the project brings together researchers from the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, the Migration Policy Centre at the European University Institute in Florence and the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels.

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## Preliminary Programme

9.00-9.15	Registration
9.15-9.30	Introduction of MEDAM & EMNES
9.30-10.00	<b>Economic links between the EU and the South Med region: trade, investment, and migration</b> <i>Speakers: Matthias Busse (CEPS, EMNES) and Nadzeya Laurentsyeva (CEPS, MEDAM)</i>
10.00-11.30	<b>Session I. Recent economic developments in the South Med region</b> Labour market impact of trade liberalisation in the South Med region <i>Speaker: Rym Ayadi (HEC Montreal, Emuni, EMNES)</i>  Labour market structure and skills in the South Med region <i>Speaker: Jamel Trabelsi (IHEC Cartage &amp; BETA University and EMNES)</i>  Development of private sector in the South Med region: entrepreneurship and innovation <i>Speaker: Ilyas Azzoui, (National Center for Scientific and Technical Research, Rabat and EMNES)</i>
11.30-12.00	Coffee break
12.00-13.30	<b>Session II. The South Med region as a destination for migrants: prospects for economic integration</b> Capacity to accommodate forced migrants in the South Med region <i>Speaker: Elena Sánchez-Montijano (CIDOB)</i>  The Economics of the Syrian Crisis <i>Speaker: Anda David (AFD)</i>  Labour market integration of migrants in the South Med region <i>Speaker: Lewis Turner (SOAS University of London)</i>
13.30 – 14.30	Lunch
14.30 -15.30	<b>Session III. Existing cooperation schemes between the EU and the South Med region in the area of migration</b> The role of development aid to manage migration in the South Med region <i>Speaker: Mauro Lanati (EUI, MEDAM)</i>  Agreements between the EU and the South Med countries: Do they work? Recent solutions: new Migration Partnership Framework <i>Speakers: TBC</i>
15.30-16.00	Coffee break
16.00-17.00	<b>Panel discussion. Policies and tools for labour market integration of refugees in the South Med region</b> Chair: Daniel Gros Panelists: Rym Ayadi, Veronique Barbelet, Dagmar Schineanu, TBC