



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN  
NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES  
الشبكة الأورو-متوسطية للدراسات الإقتصادية

# NEWSLETTER

2016 - 2017



"The Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES) is built on four core principles: independence, excellence, policy relevance and deep knowledge on Euro-Mediterranean affairs. The results expected from our action are to allow younger generation of researchers, yet experts in their fields, to provide policy makers with a renewed vision for socio-economic development in the south Mediterranean countries, mainly focusing on employment creation, social inclusion, and sustainable development."

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**RYM AYADI**  
EMNES Scientific Director

<http://emnes.org/>

# THE NETWORK

## About EMNES

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The Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES) is a network of partners and associates research institutions and think tanks working on socio-economics in the Euro-Mediterranean. EMNES builds on the research work of Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association and the Mediterranean Prospects Network.

EMNES will produce books, studies, scientific and policy papers and will disseminate through the organization of annual conferences, and workshop meetings in the region bringing together leading senior and junior researchers, academics, policy makers and representatives of the civil society to discuss and debate optimal policies for the future of the region. EMNES is co-funded by the European Commission – under Grant Contract N° ENPI/2014/354-488 and the EMNES Partners and Associates.

# EMNES RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

## What we do

EMNES research agenda is organized around the following seven mutually reinforcing and interconnected themes led by EMNES researchers:

- Institutions and institutional reforms and their sequencing required to improve economic and political governance;
- Private sector, micro, small and medium –sized enterprises development, entrepreneurship and social business;
- Human capital development, education, innovation, skill mismatch and migration;
- Macroeconomic policies and employment creation;
- Labor markets, employment and employability;
- Finance and the real economy; and
- Economic integration and inclusive economic liberalization policies.

EMNES research program is implemented in three stages:

- **The first stage** – qualitative descriptive research – strive to explore and assess the socio-economic inter-linkages of the drivers of the innovative, sustainable and inclusive development and growth models in the Mediterranean region and macro and micro levels of complementarities and synergies with the EU and other regions;
- **The second stage** – analytical research – is to test and develop, via theoretical and empirical scientific research, innovative thinking about new socio-economic development and growth models that are participative, inclusive, sustainable, sound and long-term employment generating;
- **The third stage** –policy-oriented research – is to provide policy recommendations and design full-fledged roadmaps to be shared with the policy makers under the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

EMNES will ultimately contribute to the general objective of reinforcing dialogue and promoting socio-economic research and studies in priority themes of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, particularly focusing on employment creation and social inclusion, especially among the youth. It is also designed to ensure the dissemination of the results of these studies and research to civil society and socio-economic policy makers.

# LANDMARKS

## Our important events

### 2015

- EMNES receives a grant from the EU.
- Set-up of the Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES).
- Launch of the EMNES research agenda structured around six research.
- Kick-off EMNES Workshop in Brussels.

### 2016

- Launch of EMNES website.
- Co-funding of EMNES by EMEA.
- Implementation of the first research phase of EMNES research agenda.
- Second EMNES Workshop in Barcelona to present interim research.
- First EMNES Annual Conference in Tunis to present research under first phase.
- Third EMNES Scientific Workshop in Tunis to launch research under second phase.
- Launch of the Tunisia Economic Policy Group.

### 2017

- Launch of EMNES Working Papers, Studies and Policy Papers series.
- Upgrade of EMNES website, social media accounts and weekly news.
- Joint MEDAM- EMNES workshop on Migration, employment and integration in Brussels.
- Joint EMNES-EMEA-IEMED conference on regional integration and youth employment in Barcelona.
- Fourth EMNES Scientific Workshop in Barcelona to present research under phase 2.
- Launch of the First EMNES-EMEA Academic and Policy Call for Papers.
- New members joined EMNES (CREAD from Algeria and TBS from Tunisia).

# EMNES PUBLICATIONS

## STUDIES

### YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGION

QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS  
ON WHETHER AND HOW REGIONAL INTEGRATION  
COULD LEAD TO YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Rym Ayadi (Project Scientific Leader), Fragkiadakis Kostas, Leonidas Paroussos, Karkatsoulis Panagiotis, Raul Ramos, Carlo Sessa, Emanuele Sessa, Research Assistance: Antone Agapiou, Project Manager: Roger Abayansha Sidiq



FINAL STUDY - 09 JULY 2017



## Youth employment and regional integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region - Qualitative and quantitative economic analysis on whether and how regional integration could lead to youth employment

**Authors: Rym Ayadi, Fragkiadakis Kostas, Leonidas Paroussos, Karkatsoulis Panagiotis, Raul Ramos, Carlo Sessa, Emanuele Sessa – 20.07.2017**

The overall objective of this study is to examine how regional integration can provide both short-term and long-term solutions to the employment crisis in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The study targets both increased employment creation for and improved employability of youngsters in Southern and Northern Mediterranean countries, facing persistently high and increasingly unsustainable youth unemployment rates. The analysis conducted explores the conditions under which regional integration would contribute to enhance employment creation besides sustaining output growth, which is a precondition for the expansion of employment opportunities, yet not systematically translating into higher levels of employment.

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EMNES Studies – 1 – October 2017

### INSTITUTIONS AND LABOUR MARKETS IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

A SURVEY OF EGYPT, JORDAN, MOROCCO & TUNISIA



## Institutions and labour markets in the Southern Mediterranean countries – A survey of Egypt, Jordan, Morocco & Tunisia

**Authors: Ahmed Badawi and Cilja Harders – 23.10.17**

The study provides a survey of the institutional environment in which labour markets in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia are embedded. The paper presents an overview of the main recent demographic and employment trends. It then provides a comprehensive analysis of those sections in the constitutions of the four countries and of the various labour laws and regulations that are relevant for employment and social justice. In addition, the paper explores the role of informal institutions and practical norms in shaping the behaviour of employers and employees, and highlights the problem of the weak capacity of the state to enforce labour market rules.

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EMNES Studies – 2 – November 2017

## TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

EVOLUTION AND IMPACT OF EU-MED TRADE INTEGRATION IN THE SOUTH-MED



**THE AUTHORS:**  
Cinzia Alcidi and Matthias Busse  
Chahir Zaki and Nora AbouShady  
Nooh Alshyab  
Abdelkader Ait El Mekki  
Abdessalem Abbassi, Raoudha Hadhri and Hela Ayari

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# Trade and investment in the Mediterranean: Country and regional perspectives

**Authors: Authors: Cinzia Alcidi, Matthias Busse, Chahir Zaki, Nora AbouShady, Nooh Alshyab, Abdelkader Ait El Mekki, Abdessalem Abbassi, Raoudha Hadhri and Hela Ayari – 12.11.17**

The Southern Mediterranean region is economically closely linked to the EU. Both regions have sought to tighten this relationship via preferential trade agreements. Along four case countries, namely Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, this study provides an overview of the current state and trend of trade flows vis-à-vis the EU. The four country reports evaluate the process of trade liberalization and its impact on trade with the EU and the rest of the world. Recently, liberalisation efforts have been channeled into the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (DCFTAs), which focus on non-tariff barriers and investment obstacles. The study emphasises that while impact assessment reports predict large economic gains for the Southern Mediterranean region from DCFTAs, negotiation have lately slowed down. The DCFTAs may have a large potential but the right sequencing and velocity need to be carefully established and prepared to ensure that the society at large benefits.

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EMNES Studies – 3 – DECEMBER 2017

## MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT IN EGYPT, JORDAN, MOROCCO & TUNISIA

STRUCTURE, OBSTACLES AND POLICIES



**THE AUTHORS:**  
Rym Ayadi and Emanuele Sessa (editors)  
Hala Helmy El Said and Rana Hosni Ahmed (Egypt)  
Nooh Alshyab, Serena Sandri and Fuad Al Sheikh (Jordan)  
Mohamed Larbi Sidmou and Jad Allah Rami (Morocco)  
Rim Ben Ayed Mouelhi and Monia Ghazali Ferchichi (Tunisia)

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# Micro, small and medium sized enterprises development in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco & Tunisia.

**Authors: Rym Ayadi and Emanuele Sessa (editors). Hala Helmy El Said and Rana Hosni Ahmed (Egypt), Nooh Alshyab, Serena Sandri and Fuad Al Sheikh (Jordan), Mohamed Larbi Sidmou and Jad Allah Rami (Morocco), Rim Ben Ayed Mouelhi and Monia Ghazali Ferchichi (Tunisia)**

**– 3.12.17**

Abstract: This study strives to provide a comprehensive overview on the micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) sector in the selected South and East Mediterranean Countries (SEMCs) mainly Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. In particular, it examines the structure and the economic contribution of the MSMEs sector, discusses the obstacles to MSMEs growth and job creation and provides an overview of the policies and actors aimed to promote their development. This study aims at preparing the ground for a more insightful and targeted research agenda and better policies in support of MSMEs in the selected countries and to guide the European Union and other international actors to target their contributions to this sector.

# POLICY PAPERS



EMNES Policy Paper N° 001 / October, 2017

## YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION: IS FURTHER REGIONAL INTEGRATION THE WAY FORWARD FOR JOB CREATION?

Rym Ayadi and Raul Ramos  
October, 2017



## Regional integration in the Euro-Mediterranean

**Authors: Rym Ayadi and Raul Ramos – 16.10.17**

The employment and social impact of the global financial and sovereign European crises has been particularly severe in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Southern, Eastern and Northern Mediterranean countries have all been experiencing a prolonged employment crisis, whereas the improving employment trend in Northern European countries and related attractiveness for unemployed individuals across the region underpins unprecedented migratory pressures. This policy paper first delves into the challenge of youth unemployment in the Mediterranean region, explains the underlying reasons from a labour supply and demand and provides recommendations on how further regional integration can tackle this challenge.

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# WORKING PAPERS



## WORKING PAPER

### REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN

Key Dimensions, Status Quo and Prospects Towards Fundamental Rethinking

Rym Ayadi and Emanuele Sessa  
EMNES Working Paper N° 1 / June 2017

#### Abstract

The latest developments on both shores of the Mediterranean Sea are unequivocal evidence that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership failed to deliver on the promise of achieving shared prosperity through enhanced political association and economic integration. This very fact calls for a thorough assessment and fundamental rethinking of cooperation frameworks and integration schemes in the Euro-Mediterranean region. In this paper, academic literature on core dimensions of regional integration, the history of regional integration schemes and the current status quo in economic integration are each discussed, to shed light on the determinants of the very limited or non-existent catch-up between poorer and richer countries throughout the Euro-Mediterranean region. The importance of rethinking cooperation frameworks and integration schemes to accommodate the emergence of regional value chains is highlighted, based on the above assessment and the latest developments in research about globalisation.

**Keywords:** Euro-Mediterranean partnership, economic integration, trade policy, regional value chains.

**Rym Ayadi** is Professor, Director of the International Research Centre on Cooperative Finance (IRCCF) at ISEC University, Visiting Distinguished Professor at CASE Business School, Associate Senior Research Fellow at EUSI University, President of the Euro-Mediterranean Economic Association (EMEA), and also an EMNES Scientific Coordinator. **Emanuele Sessa** is Junior Economist at ISEC and Associate Researcher at the IRCCF. He acts as EMNES Academic Scientific Coordinator. Authors would like to thank Christa Alcala, Carlo Sessa and Charles Goh for their helpful comments.

EMNES Working Papers disseminate economic and policy research relevant to EMNES research programs and are to stimulate discussions from other economists and policy experts in the field. Available for free downloading from the EMNES website (<http://www.emnes.org>) © EMNES 2017.

## Regional integration in the Euro-Mediterranean

**Authors: Rym Ayadi and Emanuele Sessa – 28.06.17**

In this paper, academic literature on core dimensions of regional integration, the history of regional integration schemes and the current status quo in economic integration are each discussed, to shed light on the determinants of the very limited or non-existent catch-up between poorer and richer countries throughout the Euro-Mediterranean region.

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# EMNES EVENTS

## Conferences & activities



### EMNES 1st Annual Conference, December 2016, Tunis

**Towards inclusive, sustainable and employment driven socio-economic models in the Mediterranean: What roles for institutions, micro-small and medium sized enterprises and finance?**

In the first EMNES Annual Conference, the participants discussed the preliminary outputs of research conducted during the first year of project implementation in three main areas of investigation. These areas cover the role and current and future development of institutions, private sector development with a particular focus on micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMES) and finance in achieving an inclusive and sustainable model of socio-economic development, centred on employment creation and employability of the youth.

**VISIT**

### MEDAM- EMNES workshop, June 2017, Brussels

**Economic Integration of Refugees in the Countries of First Asylum – Mission possible?**

The workshop was co-organised by the Economic Policy research unit at CEPS, partner institutes from Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES) and the Mercator Dialogue on Asylum and Migration (MEDAM). The workshop brought together researchers with expertise in the region's economic development, the economics of migration and development, as well as legal experts.

**VISIT**

### EMNES-EMEA-IEMED conference, July 2017, UfM Secretariat – Barcelona

**Presentation of the Study: How regional integration leads to youth employment in the Euro-Mediterranean region**

The conference presented the results and conclusions of the study co-led by IEMed- EMEA and with the collaboration of the EMNES network entitled "Youth employment and regional integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region". This study examines how regional integration can provide both short-term and long-term solutions to the employment crisis in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

**VISIT**



# EMNES PARTNERS

## Our trusted colleagues

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- Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) (Belgium)
- Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) (Slovenia)
- Free University of Berlin (FUB) (Germany)
- Institut Tunisien de la Compétitivité et des Etudes Quantitatives (ITCEQ) (Tunisia)
- Institut des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (IHEC) (Tunisia)
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- Forum for Euro-Mediterranean Innovation in Action (FEMIA) (France)
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- Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes - Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari (CIHEAM) (Italy)
- Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) (Italy)
- International Institute for Cooperatives Alphonse & Dorimène Desjardins at HEC Montreal (Canada)



European  
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**The Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies - EMNES  
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the Mediterranean region.**

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