

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN  
NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES  
الشبكة الأوروبية-متوسطية للدراسات الاقتصادية

# 15 December 2016

## Tunis, Tunisia

### **First EMNES Annual Conference**

Towards Inclusive, Sustainable and  
Employment Driven Socio-Economic  
Models in the Mediterranean Region:


**What Roles for Institutions, Micro-Small  
and Medium Sized Enterprises and Finance?**

**Hotel Acropole, Berges Du Lac, Tunis, Tunisia**

## Towards Inclusive, Sustainable and Employment Driven Socio-Economic Models in the Mediterranean Region:


### **What Roles for Institutions, Micro-Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and Finance?**

Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (SEMC) have been experiencing sustained economic growth in the twenty-five years of liberal economic policy agenda characterised by the so-called Washington Consensus build on economic liberalisation and privatisation and little state intervention - 4.4% on average in the period comprised between 1991 and 2014, with a tangible break in the trend as a result of the Arab uprisings and the tensions that have resulted from these events. This economic growth failed however to translate into meaningful employment creation and social equality. This is illustrated by persistently high unemployment - 31.3% in average- and inequality rates over the period without any relevant change in the figures brought by years of sustained economic growth. This very fact, combined with a demographic transition leading to a rapid increase of the working-age population outpacing the already insufficient creation of economic opportu-



nities, ultimately led to the destabilisation of the Mediterranean region's politics and economies. It is now widely recognised that youth unemployment, combined with a difficult economic conjuncture resulting from the great financial and economic crises since 2008, led to social unrest and a series of outbursts in the SEMC. These outbursts unravelled the underlying unsustainability of the economic and political stability ensured by long lasting authoritarian regimes and resulted into widespread instability.

Today unemployment rates further increased and brought even broader uncertainty about whether or not the aspirations of the Arab youth effectively translated into regime changes and policy reforms. In some countries, widespread instability turned into conflicts further feeding people's uncertainty about their future and ultimately leading to consistent refugee flows heading towards the European Union (EU). These refugee flows put under further stress an already tense situation characterised by intensifying South-North migrations of Arab youngsters searching in Europe those economic opportunities dramatically lacking in their home countries, leading to rising concerns and inward looking political decisions in the EU.



This situation is particularly problematic considering that many EU countries are also facing substantial problems of unemployment and social disruptions. This led policy makers to put into question a policy agenda seemingly leading to jobless economic growth and therefore inadequate to address the core challenges of the Mediterranean region.

The Euro-Mediterranean Network of Economic Studies (EMNES) new vision stems from the quest for economic policy solutions aiming at more inclusive, sustainable and employment driven socio-economic development in the region.

This First EMNES Annual Conference will present the preliminary outputs of the first year of EMNES research on the three areas of investigation: the role, current and future development of institutions and labor markets, the private sector and Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and finance in achieving an inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development model that is centred on employment creation and employability of youth.

# Thursday 15 December 2016

**08h30** Registration

**09h00** Welcome Speech by Hon. Slim Khalbous, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Tunisia  
Lassaad El Asmi, Rector of University of Carthage, Tunisia

**09h15** Introduction by Rym Ayadi, Professor, HEC Montreal, EMUNI and EMNES Scientific Director  
Cinzia Alcidi, Senior Research Fellow, CEPS  
Salma Dammak, Director IHEC  
Habib Zitouna, Director ITCEQ

**09h30** Keynote Speech: Mustapha Kemal Nabli (North African Bureau of Economic Studies (NABES))

**09h45** **Panel 1- Towards Inclusive, Sustainable and Employment Driven Socio-Economic Models in the Mediterranean Region: Opportunities and Challenges**

*Moderator:* Rym Ayadi, EMNES

Scientific Coordinator, EMUNI & HEC Montreal

*Speakers:* Ahmet Evin (Istanbul Policy Center, Sabanci University), Roger Albinyana (European Institute of the Mediterranean, IEMED), Elyes Fakhfekh (Ex Minister of Finance, Tunisia), Fawzi Dib (Union for the Mediterranean, UfM)

## **Discussion**

Special Testimony: Abdelwahab Ben Ayad, Chairman Group Poulina

**10h30 Panel 2- Institutions, Economic Growth, Social Welfare and Labour Market**

*Moderator:* Nooh Alshayab, Yarmouk University and EMNES

*Speaker:* Ahmed Badaoui, University of Berlin and EMNES

*Discussants:* Hamza Medebb (European University Institute, EUI), Jacques Charmes (Institut de recherche pour le développement, IRD)

**Discussion**

**11h30** Coffee Break

**11h45** Keynote Speech: Jaloul Ayad, Ex Minister of Finance, Tunisia

**12h05 Panel 3- Private Sector, MSMEs and Employment Creation**

*Moderator:* Rim Mouelhi, IHEC and EMNES

*Speaker:* Hala El Said, (FEPS-CU) and EMNES

*Discussants:* Abdoulaye Sy (World Bank); Giovanni Ferri (LUMSA University), Rod rick Egal (IESMED), Nizar Yaiche (PWC), Mondher Kanfir (Wikistartup)

**Discussion**

**13h10** Lunch

**14h20** Keynote Speech: Mohamed Lahouel, Chief Economist, Government of Dubai

## **14h40 Panel 4- Finance, Regulation and Real Economy**

*Moderator:* Olfa Ben Ouda, IHEC and EMNES

*Speaker:* Rym Ayadi, EMNES Coordinator, EMUNI & HEC Montreal

*Discussants:* Sami Ben Naceur (IMF), Dr. Khater Abi Habib (Kafalat, Lebanon), Khaled Zribi (Tunisian Stock Exchange)

### **Discussion**

## **15h40 Launch of the Tunisian Economic Policy Group**

Introduction: Rym Ayadi, EMNES Scientific Coordinator, EMUNI & HEC Montreal, Habib Zitouna, ITCEQ and Mohamed Goaid and Olfa Ben Ouda, IHEC

### **Founding Members:**

Rym Ayadi, EMUNI & HEC Montréal

Mohamed Goaid, IHEC

Olfa Ben Ouda, IHEC

Jemel Trabelsi, IHEC and ITCEQ

Habib Zitouna, ITCEQ

Rim Mouelhi, IHEC

Moez Ben Tahar, IHEC

Invited: Sami Ben Naceur and Mohamed Lahouel

### **Objective of the TEP-Group:**

to provide independent and innovative economic policy ideas for Tunisian policy makers in line with the overarching objective of EMNES.

## **16h00 EMNES Economic Policy Panel:**

Challenges and Scenarios for Inclusive and Employment Driven Socio Economic Development Models in the Mediterranean

*Moderator:* Habib Zitouna, ITCEQ  
Carlo Sessa (ISINNOVA)  
Rym Ayadi (EMNES, EMEA, HEC Montreal)  
Cinzia Alcidi (CEPS)  
Olfa Soukri Cherif (Assemblée Des Représentants  
du Peuple, Tunisia)  
Francis Lemoine (European Commission Delegation,  
Tunisia)  
Fawzi Dib (UfM)

**Objective of the EMNES Economic Policy Panel:** is to discuss the main global economic challenges facing the Mediterranean region with a focus on the Tunisian economy and the role of international actors to respond to these challenges.

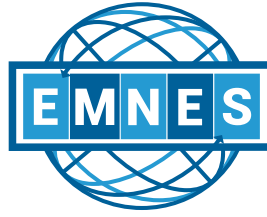
**Output:** First EMNES Economic Policy Brief (EPB). The EMNES EPB n°1 will be circulated to all the participants soon after the first EMNES Annual Conference.

- 17h00**     **Closing Speech**  
Hon. Fadhel Abdelkafi Minister of Development,  
investment and International Cooperation
- 17h15**     Cocktail
- 19h00**     End of Event

### **Practical information for the meeting:**

- 1. EMNES** members and invited speakers and discussants are encouraged to arrive on the **14 December 2016**;
- 2. EMNES** invited speakers and discussants will be staying at the Acropole Hotel Berges du Lac Tunis from 14 to 16 December, 2016 unless stated otherwise.





**EURO-MEDITERRANEAN  
NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES**  
الشبكة الأورو-متوسطية للدراسات الاقتصادية

The **Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies - EMNES** aims to provide a renewed vision for socio-economic development in the Mediterranean region, mainly focusing on employment creation, 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 through the organization of annual conferences, and workshop meetings bringing together leading researchers, academics, policy makers 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 on Euro-Mediterranean affairs.

**EMNES** is a network of partners and associates research institutions and think tanks working on the Euro-Mediterranean region:

***Partners***

- Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) (Belgium)
- Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) (Slovenia)
- Frei University of Berlin (FUB) (Germany)
- Institut Tunisien de la Compétitivité et des Etudes Quantitatives (ITCEQ) (Tunisia)
- Institut des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (IHEC) (Tunisia)
- Euro-Mediterranean University of Fés (UEMF) (Morocco)
- Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV) (Morocco)
- University of Cairo- Faculty of Economics and Political Science (FEPS) (Egypt)
- Yarmook University (YU)(Jordan)

***Associates***

- Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA), (Spain)
- Forum for Euro-Mediterranean Innovation in Action (FEMIA) (FRANCE)

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- Institute of Computers and Communications Systems - E3M lab, National Technical University of Athens (ICCS) (Greece)
  - Istanbul Policy Center - Sabanci University (IPC) (Turkey)
  - Institute of Studies for the Integration of Systems (ISINNOVA) (ITALY)
  - University of Barcelona Regional Quantitative Analysis Group (UB-AQR) (Spain)
  - Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes - Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari (IAMB) (CI-HEAM) (Italy)
  - Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM), Italy
  - International Institute for Cooperatives Alfonso & Dorimene Desjardins at HEC Montreal (Canada)

**EMNES funding:** European Commission and **EMNES** partners.

**EMNES** scientific coordination: Dr. Rym Ayadi, Professor, EMUNI and HEC Montreal

**EMNES** administrative coordination: Dr. Cinzia Alcidi, Senior Fellow, CEPS

**EMNES** financial coordination: Sally Scott, Head of Finance, CEPS



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN  
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ITCEQ



**IHEC**  
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