



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

**06-07 December  
2017  
Cairo, Egypt**

## **Second EMNES Annual Conference**

Towards inclusive, socio-economic  
Models in the Mediterranean


**Hotel Tahrir Square, Cairo, Egypt.**



## Towards inclusive socio-economic models in the Mediterranean

In the aftermath of the 2011 Arab uprisings in the southern and eastern Mediterranean, the region has reached a turning point in its history, presenting as many opportunities as challenges. The Arab world embarked on a transition process of varying magnitudes, whose outcome will be determined by the interaction between a number of economic, political, socio-cultural and geopolitical factors calling both on governments and external actors to design and implement new and specific strategies able to cope with the new realities unfolding in the region

External actors - notably the EU, which has a role to play as the key economic partner of the region - are expected to rethink their policies towards the region as past political choices proved to be suboptimal to steer the region into a sustainable future. Most of the research produced on the south-Mediterranean countries before the 2011 uprising failed to reveal the growing socio-economic tensions, hampered by inefficiency and low productivity, inadequate institutional capacity, market fragmentation and lack of integration, below-potential foreign direct investments and weak contribution of small and medium enterprises. This situation led to persistently high levels of unemployment, especially among the youth including most notably the educated ones, combined with inequality.



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 Second EMNES Annual Conference will present the outputs of the second year of EMNES research on the six areas of investigation:

- The role of institutions and labor markets;
- The role of private sector and Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in achieving an inclusive development model;
- Finance, employment and inclusive growth;
- Human capital, skill mismatch and job creation;
- Macroeconomic policies, firms' productivity and job creation;
- Regional integration and job creation

# Day 1: Wednesday 6 December 2017

**08h30** Registration

**09h00** **Welcome Speech**

H.E. Hala El-Said, Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, Egypt  
Mahmoud El Said, Vice Dean, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University

**09h30** **Introductory Speech**

Rym Ayadi, Professor, HEC Montreal, EMUNI & EMNES Scientific Director

**09h45** **Policy Panel 1- Inclusive Growth and Economic Reforms, in the Mediterranean Region**

Moderator: Rym Ayadi, EMNES, EMUNI & HEC Montreal

Speakers:

Nihal El Megharbel (UNHabitat Program)

Hala Abou- Ali (Egyptian Parliament)

A representative from Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, Egypt

**11h00** Coffee break

**11h30** **Academic Session 1: Institutions, Growth and Employment**

**Chair: Ahmed Badawi (FUB)**

**Paper 1:** Formal and Informal Institutions as Determinants of Informal Employment

Speaker: Racha Ramadan (FEPS)

Discussant: Jacques Charmes (IRD)

**Paper 2\*:** The Effects of Institutions and Natural Resources in Heterogenous Growth Regimes with endogeneity

Speaker: Yacine Belarbi (CREAD)

Discussant: Nooh Alshyab (YU)

**12h30** Lunch

13h30

**Academic Session 2: Productivity and Job Creation  
Chair: Cinzia Alcidi (CEPS)**

**Paper 3:** On Modeling the Determinants of TFP in the MENA Region: A Macro-Micro Firm-Level Evidence

Speaker: Nesreen Seleem (FEPS)

Discussant: Habib Zitouna (UC)

**Paper 4:** Employment intensity and Sectoral Output Growth: a Comparative Analysis for MENA economies

Speaker: Chahir Zaki (FEPS)

Discussant: Riham Ahmed (FEPS)

**Paper 5\*:** Fixed-Mobile substitution in MENA countries: What is the future of fixed-line market?

Speaker: Riham Ahmed (FEPS)

Discussant: Moez Ben Tahar (IHEC)

15h00

Coffee break

15h30

**Academic Session 3: Human capital,  
Employment & Migration**

**Chair: Abdelhamid El Zoheiry (EMUNI)**

**Paper 6:** Skill mismatch and return on education

Speaker: Jamel Trabelsi (ITCEQ)

Discussant: Vladimir Hlasny (Ewha Womans University)

**Paper 7\*:** Job Search Intensity and the role of Social Networks in Finding a Job in Arab

Countries: A case study of Algeria and Jordan.

Speaker: Moundir Lassassi (CREAD)

Discussant: Mahmoud Ali Mefleh Hailat (YU).

**Paper 8\*:** Return Migration and Social Mobility in MENA: Evidence from Labor Market Panel Surveys

Speaker: Vladimir Hlasny (Ewha Womans University)

Discussant: Jamel Trabelsi (ITCEQ)

**Paper 9\*:** Why Has Increasing Educational Attainment Had So Little Effect on Labor Force Participation for Women in MENA Countries?

Speaker: Moundir Lassassi (CREAD)

Discussant: Marwa Beltagy (FEPS)

17:30

**END OF DAY 1 at 19:00 DINNER (ON INVITATION)**

# Day 2: Thursday 7 December 2017

## **09h30** Policy Panel 2- Private Sector Dynamics and Social Business

Moderator: Sherine El Shawarby, Cairo University

Speakers:

Basil Roushdy (Nile Capital)

Nermine El-Tahri (Central Bank of Egypt)

Samir Abdullah (Palestine Economists Association)

A Representative from the European Commission

**11h00** Coffee break

## **11h30** Academic Session 4: SMEs Dynamics and Entrepreneurship

**Chair: Rym Ayadi (HEC Montreal & EMUNI)**

**Paper 10:** Success factors for SME growth in the Mediterranean

Speaker: Rim Mouelhi (IHEC)

Discussant: Heba Zaki (FEPS)

**Paper 11:** Entrepreneurship and innovation (A Survey for Morocco and Jordan)

Speaker: Ilyas Azzioui (IAV)

Discussant: Reham Rizk (BUC)

**Paper 12\*:** Industrial Structure and Performance in Egypt

Speaker: Reham Rizk (BUC)

Discussant: Chahir Zaki (FEPS)

**13h00** Lunch



14h00

**Academic Session 5: Financial Development, Growth, Employment and Inequality**

**Chair: Nooh Alshyab (YU)**

**Paper 13:** Financial development and employment

Speaker: Rym Ayadi (HEC Montreal and EMUNI)

Discussant: Olfa Ben Ouda (IHEC)

**Paper 14:** Credit growth and inequality

Speaker: Sandra Challita (EMEA and ESDES Lyon)

Discussant: Khaled Menna (CREAD)

**Paper 15\*:** Banking Competition, Convergence and Growth Across Macro-Regions of MENA

Speaker: Samah Issa (Sheffield Business School)

Discussant: Sandra Challita (EMEA and ESDES Lyon)

15h30

Coffee break

16h00

**Academic Session 6: Economic Integration & Job Creation**

**Chair: Habib Zitouna (University of Carthage)**

**Paper 16:** Do Exports and Innovation Matter for the Demand of Skilled Labor? Evidence from MENA Countries

Speaker: Nora Abou-Shady (FEPS)

Discussant: Cinzia Alcidi (CEPS)

**Paper 17\*:** Coexistence of small and large firms: How does product mix respond

Speaker: Aya Elewa (Paris School of Economics)

Discussant: Rim Mouelhi (IHEC)

17h00

**Ceremony for EMEA-EMNES Best Paper Award**

Announcement of EMEA-EMNES Award

Committee Decision Brief Speech by the winning paper author

18h00

**End Of EMNES Annual Conference**

**\* Invited papers under EMNES-EMEA Call for Papers - Papers eligible to EMNES-EMEA Award**



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