

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

# 09-10 May 2018

## EMNES Policy Conference

Job Creation in the Southern Mediterranean:  
Perspectives and Challenges

Le Grand Amman Hotel, Amman


# **Job Creation in the Southern Mediterranean Countries: Perspectives and Challenges**

## **09-10 May 2018**

**Le Grand Amman Hotel, Amman**

One of the most serious challenges in the Southern Mediterranean countries is the high unemployment rate, specially among youth. Unemployment can be considered as one of the sources of malcontent among the Arab youth and many observers sees the high unemployment as one of the major reasons behind the popular uprisings in the Arab countries.

The high unemployment can be considered as a fertile soil for social and political frustration, which may lead to illegal migration, radicalism, and violence. Thus, the consequences of unemployment can affect not only the single countries, but the surrounding region as a whole. Therefore, designing a model of inclusive and sustainable development centered on employment should be considered



as a common interest between Southern Mediterranean and European countries and a key to defuse political frustration and prevent radicalization.

The **EMNES Policy Conference on “Job Creation in the Southern Mediterranean Countries: Perspectives and Challenges”** aims at providing a platform for discussion on the socio economic roots of unemployment in the region and on the perspectives and challenges for job creation for developing a policy roadmap to solve the problem of unemployment.

The conference gathers influential stakeholders and promotes the dialogue between experts from the region and beyond, influential politicians, investors, and private sector decision makers. The discussion will address the role of institutions, investment, financial markets, financial inclusion, and entrepreneurship for job creation. New developments of the labor markets and strategies to foster human capital development will be envisioned, as well, with the final aim of developing a roadmap for inclusive and sustainable development centered on employment.

# Wednesday 9th May 2018

**08:30**

**Registration**

**09:00-10:00**

**Opening session and welcome speeches**

Prof. Dr. Rym Ayadi, Scientific Director of the Euro Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Taamneh, Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Admin. Sciences, Yarmouk University

Prof. Dr. Zaydan Khafafi, President of Yarmouk University

H.E. Prof. Dr. Adel Al Tweissi, Minister of Higher Education.

**10:00-11:30**

**Panel discussion on**

**“Job Creation in the Southern Mediterranean Countries: Perspectives and Challenges”**

**Speakers:** H.E. Prof. Dr. Wajih Oweis, Senator and Former Minister of Higher Education on “Human capital development and the labor market”

H.E. Dr. Ziad Fariz, Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan on “Financial development and inclusion as instruments for job creation and poverty reduction”

H.E. Maha Ali, Former Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply on “Investment and job creation in Jordan”

H.E. Prof. Dr. Munther Al Shar’è, Former Minister of Water and Irrigation on “Gig economy: curse or cure?”

Prof. Dr. Rym Ayadi, Scientific Director of EMNES on “Inclusive and sustainable development centred on employment”

**Moderator:** H.E. Prof. Dr. Munther Al Shar’è

**11:30-12:00**

**Coffee break**

**12:00-13:30**

**Panel discussion on**

**“Socio-Economic Roots of Unemployment in the Southern Mediterranean Countries: Factors Influencing Job Creation in the Region”**

**Speakers:**

Prof. Dr. Abdul Razaq Bani Hani, President of Jerash University on “Socio-Economic Roots of Unemployment in the Southern Mediterranean Countries”

Mr. Laith Al Qasem, Chairman Arabian Business Consultants for Development on “Regional entrepreneurial environment and job creation”

Mr. Ghassan Nuqul, Vice CEO Nuqul Group on “Matching skills and qualifications with labor market needs”

Dr. Maher Al Marouq, CEO of Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO) on „Business environment, entrepreneurship, and job creation”

H.E. Dr. Sudqi Al Omoush, Former Deputy Secretary General of the Union for Mediterranean on “Med4Jobs: Mediterranean Initiative for Jobs and youth employability”

**Moderator:** Prof. Dr. Qassem Al Hammouri, Yarmouk University

**13:30-14:30 Lunch**

**14:30-16:00 Selected studies by the Euro Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies**

**Paper 1:** “The impact of institutional uncertainty on employment generation perspectives of firms in Jordan” (Serena Sandri & Nooh Alshyab)

**Speaker:** Dr. Serena Sandri, German Jordanian University

**Discussant:** Prof. Dr. Riad Al Momani (Yarmouk University)

**Paper 2:** “On Modelling the determinants of TFP in the MENA region: A macro-micro firm-level evidence” (Nesreen Seleem & Chahir Zaki)

**Speaker:** Dr. Chahir Zaki, Cairo University

**Discussant:** Prof. Dr. Hasan Al Nader (Yarmouk University)

**Paper 3:** “Skills mismatch and returns to education in Jordan” (Nooh Alshyab, Serena Sandri & Ziad Abu-Lila)

**Speaker:** Dr. Nooh Alshyab, Yarmouk University

**Discussant:** Dr. Mahmoud Heilat (Yarmouk University)

**Moderator:** Dr. Soheil Magableh (Yarmouk University)

**16:00-16:30 Coffee break**

**16:30-17:30** Wrap up by Prof. Dr. Rym Ayadi and conclusion.

## About us

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

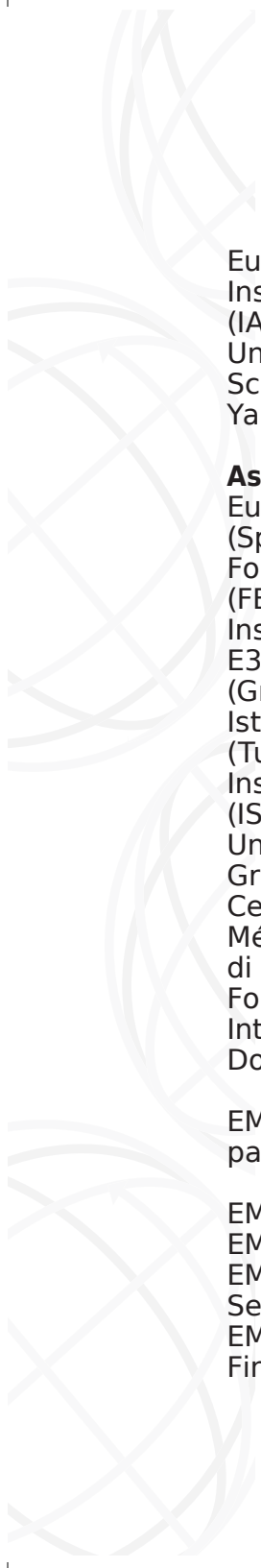
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Dorimene Desjardins at HEC Montreal (Canada)

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partners.

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EMUNI and HEC Montreal

EMNES administrative coordination: Dr. Cinzia Alcidi,  
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EMNES financial coordination: Sally Scott, Head of  
Finance, CEPS



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