

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

NEWSLETTER

6th Issue: Jan - Dec 2021



2021 was yet another difficult year, after the eruption of COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. Exceptional policy measures worldwide prevented a major economic collapse. However, the inequality in policy responses was evident because of diverse fiscal spaces available to governments to activate the firepower to deal with the health and economic crises. Countries with ample fiscal positions were able to allocate budgetary support to social protection mechanisms to avert the worse to happen, particularly a breakdown of the health system and social unrest. Despite these measures, inequality, poverty and unemployment among youth and women increased, especially in the Mediterranean and Africa. EMNES continued its activities during 2021. The research continued to provide recommendations to mitigate the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic. Since December 2020, EMNES produced 15 studies, working papers and policy papers (a total of 95 since EMNES set up in 2015) that contribute to a renewed vision and models for socio-economic development in the Mediterranean region and post COVID-19 pandemic, mainly focusing on employment creation, social inclusion, sustainable development and regional integration. On December 09-10, 2021, EMNES celebrated its 2021 Sixth Annual Conference on Pillars for Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Growth and Innovative Socio-Economic Models Post COVID-19 Pandemic in the Mediterranean and Africa. 14 papers were selected out of 45 submitted at the EMNES call for papers and presented at the conference, from which 3 papers received EMEA-EMNES prizes. In 2022 EMNES will be officially enlarged to Africa and will be rebranded as the Euro-Mediterranean and African Network for Economic Studies (EMANES). The Africa-EU partnership and cooperation will be one of the pillars of EMANES research in 2022.

RYM AYADI
EMNES Director

THE NETWORK

ABOUT EMNES



The Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES) is a network of partners and associates: research institutions and think tanks working on socio-economics and policy in the Euro- Mediterranean. It builds on the research work of the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association and the Mediterranean Prospects Network. EMNES has been co-funded by the European Commission – under Grant Contract N° ENPI/2014/354-488 (2014-2019) and the EMNES Partners and Associates.

EMNES is supported from 35 Universities and Research Institutions from Algeria, Belgium, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey and the UK. It consists of a core team of over 100 experts in all economic fields, including the members of the steering, associate and advisory committees, as well as the main EMNES researchers and fellows. Half of EMNES researchers are women and most of the researchers and fellows are less than 45 years old.

Since January 2021 EMNES published 4 Studies, 4 Policy Papers, and 7 Working Papers, all related to socio-economic developments of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

From January 2022 the Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES) will be rebranded as the **Euro-Mediterranean and African Network for Economic Studies (EMANES)**



EMNES PUBLICATIONS

STUDIES



FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

Lead author/Editor: Rym Ayadi – Co-authors: Sandra Chalitta, Mais Sha’ban, Contributors: Alia El Mahdi, Taghreed Hassouba (EG) Nooh Alshyab, Serena Sandri, Dima Daradkeh (JO), Sandra Challita (LB), Najat El Mekkaoui, Yeganeh Forouheshfar, Sara Loukili (MA), Olfa Benouda, Soumaya Ben Khelifa, Dorra Hmaied, Rania Makni (TN)

December 2021

EMEA - EMNES Study - Financial development, financial inclusion and the real economy

The study provides an in-depth analysis of the state of financial inclusion (FI) in five countries in the South and East Mediterranean: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. The analysis is based on a survey conducted by the Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES) researchers using interviews, literature research and secondary data. The main aim is to investigate the salient features of FI, the barriers to achieving FI, and the regulatory framework and policies used to promote FI in each country.



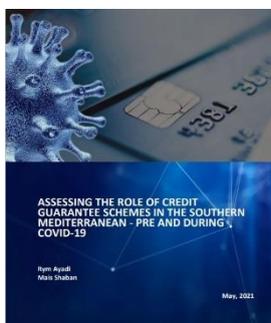
THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN BLUE TRANSITION SCENARIO 2050

Lead author/Editor: Rym Ayadi – Authors: Ioannis Charalampidis, Panagiotis Karkatsoulis, Leonidas Paroussos

June 2021

EMEA - EMNES Study - Scenario analysis and foresight; Euro-Mediterranean - African partnership, Regional integration, trade, investment and infrastructure

The study aims to provide a quantified projection of the Blue Transition scenario (the study published by EMEA in 2020) using a CGE (computable general equilibrium) model (GEM-E3-MENA) that is calibrated to the latest available data. The model-based analysis aims at providing a consistent projection of the energy and economic systems for the Euro-Mediterranean (EU-MED) countries within the Blue Transition narrative.



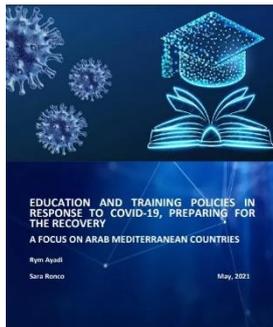
ASSESSING THE ROLE OF CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEMES IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN – PRE AND DURING COVID-19

Authors: Rym Ayadi, Mais Sha’ban

May 2021

EMEA - EMNES Study - Financial development, financial inclusion and the real economy

Amidst the global health crisis, this new study updates the study of Ayadi and Gadi (2013) and extends the knowledge on credit guarantee schemes (CGS) in the South Mediterranean, whilst providing a preliminary assessment on the role of CGS – during and post COVID-19, based on a survey and various stakeholder engagement sessions conducted in 2020.



EDUCATION AND TRAINING POLICIES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19: PREPARING FOR THE RECOVERY – A FOCUS ON ARAB MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

Lead author/Editor: Rym Ayadi - Co-author: Sara Ronco

May 2021

EMEA - EMNES Study - Human capital development, education, labour markets and migration

The study provides an overview of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in the Arab Mediterranean countries (AMCs), zooming in on education and training systems and policies, analysing their resilience in managing and resisting the crisis and how lessons learned can be embedded in recovery plans and long-term reform processes. The study is prepared in the context of a project funded by the European Training Foundation. The study is prepared in the context of a project funded by the ETF.

POLICY PAPERS



**ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:
THE RELEVANCE OF A NEXUS APPROACH IN THE
EURO-MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICAN REGION**

Fathallah Sijilmassi and Mounia Slighoua

May, 2021



ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: THE RELEVANCE OF A NEXUS APPROACH IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICAN REGION

Authors: Fathallah Sijilmassi, Mounia Slighoua

May 2021

EMEA - EMNES Policy Paper, May 2021 - Sustainability, sustainable development and green transition

The paper emphasises the need for a “nexus approach” rooted in a “geography sensitive” and “multi-scalar” vision of Sustainable Development, for targeted implementation at regional and local levels, particularly in the Euro-Mediterranean and Africa. This approach is argued to be a fundamental accelerator for regional integration, which remains weak in this part of the World and to accelerate the pace towards reaching Sustainable Development Goals.



**HOW DID COVID-19 PANDEMIC
IMPACT EDUCATION IN EGYPT?**

Marwa Biltagy

April, 2021



HOW DID COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACT EDUCATION IN EGYPT?

Author: Marwa Biltagy

April 2021

EMEA - EMNES Policy Paper, April 2021 - Human capital development, education, labour markets and migration

The main objective of this policy paper is to determine the effect of the pandemic on the Egyptian educational system. The COVID-19 pandemic leads us to respond to an actual challenge and to take real responsibility. Indeed, the new Coronavirus represents a shock to all countries, but economies that have relied on technology and ensured online services have been relatively less affected.



DEMAND AND SUPPLY EXPOSURE THROUGH GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS: EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES DURING COVID

Rym Ayadi, Giorgia Giovannetti, Enrico Marvasi, Giulio Vannelli, and Chahir Zaki



DEMAND AND SUPPLY EXPOSURE THROUGH GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS: EURO-MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES DURING COVID

Authors: Rym Ayadi, Giorgia Giovannetti, Giulio Vannelli, Enrico Marvasi, Chahir Zaki

March 2021

EMEA - EMNES Policy Paper, March 2021 - Regional integration, trade, investment and infrastructure

This policy paper attempts to examine how the pandemic affects emerging markets through GVCs. The paper focuses on some Euro-Mediterranean countries that are fairly-well integrated and, to a certain extent, have developed a number of GVCs between the two shores of the Mediterranean.

RESHAPING EU POLICIES TOWARDS THE EU-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP IN THE 'NEW NORMAL' ERA OF THE POST COVID-19 WORLD

Authors: Hafsa EL Bekri, Fathallah Sijilmassi

March 2021

EMNES Policy Paper 014 - Scenario analysis and foresight; Euro-Mediterranean - African partnership

The aim of this policy paper is to present the new parameters to take into consideration in order to reshape the relations between the EU and its Mediterranean and African neighbours. In particular, the policy papers highlights the importance of an increased South-South cooperation and it illustrates this through the example of Morocco's strong involvement in the Continent.

WORKING PAPERS



THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF STABILISATION PROGRAMMES: A CGE MODEL OF EGYPT

Authors: City Eldeep, Chahir Zaki – September 2021

WP N°54 - Macroeconomic policy, productivity, economic growth, inequality and social inclusion

Several emerging economies embarked in different structural adjustment programs with international financial institutions. Yet, these countries did not experience a significant improvement of their economies. The paper shows how stabilization policies might be necessary but not sufficient for long term growth.



SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AND EMPLOYMENT: CASE STUDIES FROM EGYPT

Author: Racha Ramadan – July 2021

WP N°53 - Private sector, micro, small and medium sized enterprises, entrepreneurship and social business development

The paper shows that social enterprises mostly attract young, educated Egyptians. They operate in different sectors, such as education, the environment and crafts. They generate direct and indirect economic opportunities, mainly for women, young people and informal workers.



ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND BANK PERFORMANCE

Authors: Thankom Arun, Claudia Girardone, Anna Sarkisyan, Mais Sha'ban – June 2021

WP N°52 - Financial development, financial inclusion and the real economy

The paper explores the relationship between different measures of financial inclusion and banks' performance across a global sample of countries, characterised by different institutional and regulatory environments and income levels.



NASCENT AND INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP, THE EMERGENCE OF STARTUPS IN TUNISIA: EVIDENCE FROM A QUALITATIVE SURVEY

Authors: Rim Mouelhi, Sarra Ben Slimane, Moez Ben Tahar – June 2021

WP N°51 - Private sector, micro, small and medium sized enterprises, entrepreneurship and social business development

The purpose of this work is to understand the emergence and evolution process of nascent and innovative entrepreneurship, the constraints and challenges faced by Tunisian startups, the success factors and, finally, how to support the emergence, sustainability and growth of nascent entrepreneurs.



THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY (SSE) IN MOROCCO

Authors: Najat El Mekkaoui, Yeganeh Forouheshfar, Sara Loukili – May 2021

WP N°50 – Private sector, micro, small and medium sized enterprises, entrepreneurship and social business development

Evidence from developing and developed countries shows a significant impact of cooperatives, as Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) entities, on formal job creation. Aim of this paper is to evaluate the SSE's capacity to create and to facilitate the transition from informal activity to the formal economy.

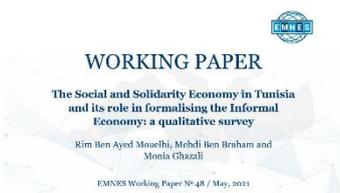


ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND TRADITIONAL KNOW-HOW: THE CASE OF RURAL MOROCCAN WOMEN

Authors: Bachiri Housseine, Slighoua Mounia, Benmoussa Othmane, Bounou Salim – May 2021

WP N°49 – Private sector, micro, small and medium sized enterprises, entrepreneurship and social business development

This paper seeks to study the migration dynamics of rural Moroccan women and, hence, to offer insights into from the new entrepreneurial process, so as to alleviate the effects of migration on both sending and receiving cities/countries.



THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY IN TUNISIA AND ITS ROLE IN FORMALISING THE INFORMAL ECONOMY: A QUALITATIVE SURVEY

Authors: Rim Ben Ayed Mouelhi, Mehdi Ben Braham, Monia Ghazali – May 2021

WP N°48 - Private sector, micro, small and medium sized enterprises, entrepreneurship and social business development

This paper attempts to better understand the functioning of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) establishments in Tunisia, the economic and social role they played, the main constraints and challenges they faced and, especially, their role in formalising the informal sector.

EMNES EVENTS

CONFERENCES

EMNES Virtual Annual Conference 2021

Online, 09 - 10 December 2021

The Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies EMNES Annual Conference 2021: "Pillars for Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Growth and Innovative Socio-Economic Models Post COVID-19 Pandemic in the Mediterranean and Africa" was hosted virtually by the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA) in collaboration with the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS). The Conference was broadcasted live on Facebook with great success, achieving 12,000 video views and an event reach of 35,500 people.

The event opened with an introduction by Prof. Rym Ayadi, President Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA) and Director, Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES), and a welcoming address by H.E. Dr. Hala el Said, Minister of Planning and Administrative Reforms, Egypt. The keynote speech of the Conference "New Approaches to Economic Challenges" was delivered by Dr. William Hynes, Senior Advisor to the OECD Secretary General and Head of OECD-NAEC. During the conference 14 working papers were presented and discussed in 4 Academic Sessions.

The Conference included a high-level policy session on "Green Transition in the Mediterranean and Africa: What opportunities and challenges post Glasgow Climate Pact?" moderated by Cinzia Alcidi, Director of Research, Head of the Economic Policy Unit at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS).

The speakers of the session were:

Connel Fullenkamp, Director of Undergraduate Studies and Professor of the Practice in economics at Duke University

Cynthia Echave, Project Coordinator – Senior Researcher Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association

Nathalie Hilmi, Head Environmental Economics at Centre Scientifique de Monaco

Fatuma Hussein, Programme Manager at Power Shift Africa

The EMNES Annual Conference 2021 concluded with the announcement of the three winners of the EMNES Call for Paper Awards 2021 by Prof. Rym Ayadi:

"Human development and decentralization: The importance of public health expenditure", co-authored by Ronald Miranda-Lescano (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain), Leonel Muinelo-Gallo Universidad de la República) and Oriol Roca-Sagalés (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

"Capital Development under Collateral Constraints, The Impact of Investment Subsidies under Non-Homothetic Preferences between Capital and Labour", authored by Rebecca Maria Mari (London School of Economics, United Kingdom)

"The role of cooperatives in enhancing social and economic inclusion: determinants of turnover growth and survival", co-authored by Najat El Mekkaoui (Université Paris- Dauphine PSL, LEDa DIAL IRD, Paris, France, EMNES and ERF), Sara Loukili (Université Paris-Dauphine PSL, LEDa DIAL IRD, EMNES, Morocco)

The awarded papers will receive 2,000 of research budget in order to continue their research under these topics. The award is funded by the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association – EMEA.





EMEA and EMNES participation to CEPS IdeasLab 2021

Online, 31 May - 04 March 2021

Organised by CEPS, one of Europe's most independent and reputable think-tanks, Ideas Lab is the most high-profile annual event on policies of the European Union. The Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association – EMEA is a partner of CEPS and one of the sponsors of IdeasLab 2021 which took place online from 31 May to 04 June 2021.

EMEA and EMNES co-organised the session “EU-Med-Africa relations: a new start?” on 04 June 2021. The session was moderated by Prof. Rym Ayadi, EMEA Founder and President, EMNES Director, and Senior Advisor, CEPS, with the participation of Sandra Kramer Director – EU-AU relations, West and East Africa, European Commission, Maria Shaw-Barragan Director, Global Partners Department Operations in Africa, Caribbean, Pacific, Asia and Latin American, European Investment Bank, and Christian Kopf Managing Director, Union Investment Privatfonds GmbH.

WEBINARS



EMEA - EMNES RESEARCH DEBATES
Agriculture and Trade: Can Africa exploit the untapped economic potential of sustainable food systems?
 WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2021, 15:00-16:00 CEST



EMEA-EMNES Research Debate: “Agriculture and Trade: Can Africa exploit the untapped economic potential of sustainable food systems?”

Online, 13 October 2021

EMEA in collaboration with EMNES launched a new research debate series which presents new studies and topics of research by EMEA, EMNES researchers and partners for discussion and debate. At the first webinar of the series researchers and experts discussed whether the African trade and agriculture sectors can face challenges, seize opportunities, and pave the way towards sustainability and resilience.

AGENDA

Welcome: Rym Ayadi, President, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA), Director, Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES) and Professor The Bayes Business School (Former CASS)

Moderator: Sara Ronco, Researcher at EMEA

Panellist(s):

Chahir Zaki, Associate Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University and EMNES Director for Egypt

Leila Baghdadi, full Professor of Economics, ESSECT, University of Tunis, Member of DEFI and Expert Member of EMEA

Discussant (s):

Giorgia Giovannetti, Professor of Economics at the University of Florence, visiting Professor at the European University Institute, Part time professor at New York University, Study abroad programme and member of the “Consiglio di Reggenza” of the Bank of Italy, Florence and EMNES Associate Member

Cynthia Echave, Project coordinator and senior researcher at EMEA



EMEA, EMNES & ETF webinar: “Education and training policies in response to COVID-19 in the Mediterranean: Do they address the challenges for a sustainable recovery?”

Online, 06 May 2021

The webinar presented the findings of the new Study “Education and Training Policies in Response to COVID-19: Preparing for the Recovery – A Focus on Arab Mediterranean Countries” and discussed the latest policy developments in the field of education and labour markets taken by the countries in Mediterranean towards a sustainable recovery path. The study is prepared in the context of a project funded by the ETF – European Training Foundation.

AGENDA

Moderator: Cristina Giner, Correspondent, Euronews, Spain

Speakers:

Prof. Rym Ayadi, President, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA) and Professor at the Business School, City University of London
Abdelaziz Jaouani, Senior Human Capital Development Expert, European Training Foundation (ETF)

Discussants:

Mohammed Elrazzaz, Senior Expert, Union for the Mediterranean
Mohamed El-Shinawi, M.D. FACS, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Egypt
Najib Hamouti, Head Career Center ESITH, Morocco

EMEA, EMNES webinar: “Fragile States post COVID-19: What Stabilization Policies?”

Online, 25 March 2021

The webinar discussed the increased fragility in the Middle East and Africa particularly in the context of COVID-19, while addressing the political economy issues and corruption, and provided avenues for stabilisation policies anchored in fiscal policy, trust, governance, and private sector involvement.

AGENDA

Moderator: Prof. Rym Ayadi, President, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA) and Professor at the Business School (Former CASS), City University of London

Panellist(s):

Ralph Chami, Assistant Director, International Monetary Fund and member of EMEA Advisory Board
Raphael Espinoza, Deputy Division Chief, International Monetary Fund and University of Oxford
Prof. Robert Klitgaard, Professor, Claremont Graduate University, USA
Prof. Thomas Risse, Professor, Otto Suhr Institute of Political Science, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
Mario Mansour, Director, Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Centre, International Monetary Fund
Daouda Sembene, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Global Development, USA
Discussant (s): Cinzia Alcidi, Director of Research, Head of the Economic Policy Unit at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Belgium.



EMNES PARTNERS

OUR TRUSTED COLLEAGUES

EMNES Founding Members

- Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA), Spain
- Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Belgium
- Institut des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (IHEC), Tunisia
- University of Cairo – Faculty of Economics and Political Science (FEPS), Egypt
- Yarmouk University (YU), Jordan
- Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes (UEMF), Morocco
- Research Center in Applied Economics for Development (CREAD), Algeria
- Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS), Palestine
- Research Institute for European, Mediterranean, and African Studies (RIEMAS) (Morocco)

EMNES Associates

- African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET), Ghana
- ESDES Business School (ESDES), France
- Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP), Kenya
- Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), Slovenia
- Free University of Berlin (FUB), Germany
- Institut Tunisien de la Compétitivité et des Études Quantitatives (ITCEQ), Tunisia
- Tunis Business School (TBS), Tunisia
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- Université Internationale de Rabat (UIR), Morocco
- Forum for Euro-Mediterranean Innovation in Action (FEMIA), France
- Institute of Computers and Communications Systems - E3MLab, National Technical University of Athens (ICCS), Greece
- Istanbul Policy Center – Sabancı University (IPC), Turkey
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- Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB), Spain
- University of Barcelona Regional Quantitative Analysis Group (UB-AQR), Spain
- Centre International de Hautes Études Agronomiques Méditerranéennes – Instituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari (CIHEAM), Italy
- Jordan Strategy Forum (JSF), Jordan
- Centre for Banking Research (CBR), United Kingdom
- Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM), Italy
- European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), Spain
- Policy Centre for the New South (PCNS), Morocco
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- German Jordanian University (GJU), Jordan
- Université de Tunis (ESSECT), Tunisia
- Bureau de Prospective Economique, Senegal
- Libera Università Maria SS. Assunta (LUMSA), Italy



European
Commission

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The Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies - EMNES
aims to provide a renewed vision for socio-economic development in the
Mediterranean region.

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