



**EMERGING
VALLEY 2019**



Institut de la Méditerranée

Workshop: **Empowering Women and Youth Change Makers
in the Mediterranean and Africa**
December 4th, 14h00-16h00, TheCAMP, Aix-en-Provence, France

Progress in the Mediterranean can only be achieved through joint construction of a partnership based on equal opportunities, which ensures the full participation of women and youth in economic and social development.

The Mediterranean region showcases two particular paradoxes. On the one hand, female educational attainments have improved drastically as shown by FEMISE research. On the other hand, women struggle to find a place in the labour market with female labour force participation rates that remain stagnant and lower than in other developing countries. Meanwhile, youth unemployment has reached alarming record levels, most especially among the educated youth.

While all entrepreneurs in developing countries experience significant obstacles in their businesses activities, evidence suggests that the extent of the barriers faced by women and youth entrepreneurs is often significantly larger than those experienced by their male peers. The Mediterranean paradoxes are the reflection, among others, of the **lack of collaboration between stakeholders in key matters** such as knowledge transfers, projects' implementation, female and youth employability, transportation and promotion of competitive sectors, creating a complex and entangled situation of multi-layered structural inequalities. Unconscious bias, discrimination, low household bargaining power, financial exclusion and many other apparent or unrevealed gender-based and age-based discriminations remain untreated or inefficiently addressed.

Yet, currently, there are many successful examples of Mediterranean women and young people that lead, accompany and/or fund projects with high economic and social impact. **These Women and Youth Changemakers not only sustain themselves, they also sustain their communities, societies, firms and sometimes industries.** Therefore, the goal of this workshop is twofold :

- it will tackle such important questions by **bringing together women and youth entrepreneurs from both shores of the Mediterranean** with the aim of sharing good practices, establishing business relationship and showing how powerful the role of women and youth in the economic development of the region can be. Social and environmental entrepreneurs, from the ecosystem of actors identified by IM and FEMISE network, will highlight concrete examples of women-led and youth-led enterprises, activities and/or programs that provide concrete answers to socio-economic needs. They will also stress the obstacles faced and the levers for action to facilitate reaching their objectives.
- it will **give voice to North and South actors that support women-led and youth-led entrepreneurship and initiatives**. In particular, it will involve mentors, business capability multipliers, networking support players and financing sustainable finance actors that provide either financial support or training in business education and skills to future success-stories.

Program (preliminary)

Session 1. Women-led & youth-led success stories Moderator: Patricia Augier (IM-FEMISE)

- Samah Ben Dhia, President AltaFemina (Tunisia-France)
- A'Laa Chbaro, ImpACT the World (Social Business) and WonderAid (all MENA region, Lebanon)
- Chaymae Samir, fondatrice du cabinet CS International, Founder and CEO of SUNDAY IVY (Morocco, UK)
- Layla Al Qasim, Landmark Hotels Company and 17 Asset Management (Jordan)



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Session 2. North and South ecosystem actors that support success stories Moderator: Constantin Tsakas (IM - FEMISE)

- Hajar Khamlichi, President Mediterranean Youth Climate Network (Morocco)
- Chiraz Karoui, European Investment Bank analyst, Women Empowerment expert (Tunisia)
- Menna Rabie, Consultant Rainmaking, former Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program Lead at Bedaya (Egypt) TBC
- Karine Moukaddem, Sustainable Development expert, co-organizer of Union for the Mediterraneans' (UfM) Youth Strategy at the University for Youth and Development of North-South Center of Council of Europe.
- Hatoumata Magassa, Bond'INNOV (France/Mali)

