

WORKSHOP ON

STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY IN SELECTED MENA COUNTRIES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

VENUE: ISTANBUL MARRIOTT HOTEL ASIA, ISTANBUL

CONTEXT

Despite the importance of structural transformation in the process of economic development, there is no consensus on how to achieve this objective or about the appropriate role of government. The range of views goes from advocating neutrality of incentives fearing government failure to advocating various forms of selective interventions to compensate for incidents of market and coordination failures. In the ERF region (Arab countries, Iran and Turkey), this debate is compounded by the scarcity of systematic evidence regarding the merits of past industrial policies and the role the EU-Med partnerships may have played in the process.

To contribute to this gap in knowledge, ERF has initiated two research projects on economic diversification and structural transformation. The aim of the two projects was to assess the industrial policy experience of selected countries in the ERF region and whether these policies were effective in promoting structural transformation and economic diversification.

The first of these projects was commissioned by FEMISE and funded by the European Investment Bank (EIB), focusing on Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. The second was conceived as part of the Research Initiative for Arab Development (RIAD) under the theme of Natural Resources and Economic Diversification, focusing on the GCC countries of Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this workshop is to give the authors of the two projects an opportunity to present the first draft of their papers to a well informed audience with a view to getting feedback before finalizing the papers. The workshop is also intended to promote interaction between researchers with interest in the topic.

AGENDA

The workshop will convene around 25 researchers from the region and outside it. It will last for one day. Each session is structured such that the presenter has a maximum of 30 minutes to present the paper, followed by 15 minutes for discussants. The rest of the time is allocated to an open discussion.

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AGENDA

08:30-09:00 Registration

09:00-11:00 SESSION 1: STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES

Opening Remarks

Moderator: *Ahmed Galal*, Economic Research Forum

Speakers: *Lahcen Achy*, The case of Morocco

Sofiane Ghali, The case of Tunisia

Discussant: *Najib Harabi*, University of Applied Sciences of Northwestern Switzerland and ERF

Open Discussion

11:00-11:30 BREAK

11:30-13:00 SESSION 2: STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN EGYPT AND TURKEY

Moderator: Jean-Louis Reiffers (FEMISE)

Speakers: *Izak Atiyas*, The case of Turkey

Discussant: *Abla Abdel-Latif*, American University in Cairo and ERF

13:30-15:00 Lunch

15:00-16:30 SESSION 3: PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION IN THE GCC

Moderator: *Hasan Ersel*, Sabanci University and ERF

Speaker: *Kais Feki*, Case studies of Kuwait, UAE and Qatar

Discussant: *Atif Kubursi*, McMaster University and ERF

Open Discussion

16:30-17:30 Wrap-up Session

Moderator: *Ahmed Galal* (ERF)

Panelists: *Sevket Pamuk*, Boğaziçi University

Jean Louis Reiffers (FEMISE)

Pedro de Lima, European Investment Bank