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مركز التكامل المتوسطي

General Guidelines for CMI-FEMISE “COVID-19 MED BRIEFS”

The coronavirus has proved to be a serious threat not only to people’s health but also to economies and societies of all countries, regardless of their level of development. This crisis presents a real test to the resilience of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, as it came at a time when they were challenged to keep their economies growing, facing increasing unemployment and scarce resources. The way out of the crisis will greatly depend on how countries in the region prioritise their actions, and on how they integrate and cooperate with each other in key sectors.

The first CMI-FEMISE call for Policy Briefs was launched in May 2020 and more than 25 submissions were received, involving experts from the South, North, and East of the Mediterranean. The best Policy Briefs that addressed the urgent issue of the COVID-19 socio-economic effects and impact on the EU-Med region were selected for publication.

Following the success of the first round, the two institutions decided to join forces again and launch a second round. This series of Policy Briefs is intended to pave the way for more in-depth thematic analyses and recommendations.

Almost a year after the crisis erupted, many questions still need to be addressed. The COVID-19 pandemic is still causing profound changes in the world economy, as well as in political and social systems. The spread of the virus has affected policies, as well as processes that are related to issues such as **trade, investment, migration, climate change and food security**. **Households and businesses** are deeply affected and additional health, economic, social, and political consequences are to be expected. Concrete solutions and policies at the regional level are needed to tackle these new challenges. **Cooperation will be a key factor for development post-COVID in the region**. Therefore, CMI and FEMISE are launching a second Call for Policy Briefs, which will hopefully contribute to the policy debate on implications and ways forward.

The Policy Brief is a short note, written in simple and non-technical language about a topic of interest to the general public and policy makers, and which contains policy recommendations. It is designed to provide a contribution to the policy debate on key issues, based on scientific research and knowledge provided by experts in the subjects.

Aim : This series of Policy Briefs will be produced to make a contribution towards the policymaking process by addressing the economic, social and welfare effects of COVID-19 on the EU-Med and how Mediterranean integration can be reinforced in order to overcome the crisis and trigger further transformation in the region.

The views expressed will be those of the author(s) and will not represent the views of FEMISE, CMI and/or their management, members and partners.



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Size: Between 4-6 pages, 2500-3500 words

Audience: Normally non-specialised readers, mainly from the policy makers of the EU-Med region, government officials and donors (EU, WB, EIB, etc.). It will also reach academics and researchers and should also be understood by the general public.

Languages: English or French

Topics: The topic should be addressing the implications of COVID-19 on the Mediterranean countries (specific focus on South-Med¹ countries) and identifying concrete policy actions pointing to solutions and ways forward. There is a vast number of topics that could be addressed within this theme. Without excluding other themes, some examples of topics of preference are :

- Post-Covid reforms and strategies to accelerate a clean energy future in the Mediterranean
- The potential of Social Entrepreneurship for growth and jobs post-Covid
- How to capitalize on the EU-Mediterranean-Africa cooperation axis
- Partnerships to develop better regional responses to COVID challenges
- Regional strategies for attracting FDI at time of crisis
- Skills to strengthen post-COVID and strategies to develop them
- Preparing the youth for a post-COVID era avoiding unemployment (e-learning, digital skills, etc.)
- Reducing gender inequality and unemployment among women that were hit the hardest with the COVID.

A preference will be given to Briefs that : i. focus on how Mediterranean countries can cooperate in dealing with a specific issue (between them and with other regional blocks such as the EU, Sub-Saharan Africa), ii. are relevant to the Mediterranean context of which they provide a clear picture, iii. allow for elements of comparison with other regions, and iv. provide concrete and operational recommendations.

Country specific analyses are accepted, but Briefs that include regional and/or sub-regional geographic coverage and/or focus on cooperation approaches and regional comparisons are strongly encouraged. Recommendations must emanate from the analysis in the Brief (or build on previous research), although they can point out to further research and studies.

¹ These include Algeria, Egypt, Israël, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Palestine.



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Contents:

The use of the following template is strongly encouraged.

1. **Executive Summary:** A paragraph overview of the brief, its main analytical issues, and conclusions, that entices readers to go further.
2. **Introduction:** Addressing the importance of the topic, its relevance to the Mediterranean region any controversy or debates, the objective of the research carried out (if any) and overall findings
3. **Mediterranean Context:** Providing an overview, supported by data, of what the regional context is with regards the topic of the Brief.
4. **Approach and Results:** Summarising the approach (research study if any), some background and methods (with minimum details) and providing the results (focused and to the point)- Graphs and tables could be used.
5. **Conclusion:** Giving your insights and interpretation about these results
6. **Implications and Recommendations:** This is the most important part of the Brief. It should describe what could happen (implications) and what, in your opinion should happen (recommendations), call for actions and who should be responsible for it, ensuring recommendations are feasible, operational, realistic and in-line with the regional context.

Eligibility:

- The Call for Policy Briefs is open for all researchers with interest and knowledge on the subject.
- The Brief could be a submitted by one or more authors.

Submission and Evaluation process:

- The Policy Brief should be submitted **before January 29th 2021** to the following two email addresses ctsakas@worldbank.org and m.louis@femise.org with the subject: "Submission of a Policy Brief"
- CV(s) of the author(s) should be submitted with the Brief as well as a short bio (that will appear on the brief if selected) of no more than 250 words)

An evaluation committee made of CMI and FEMISE experts and associates will evaluate the proposed briefs and will provide suggested modifications. The evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

- the choice of the topic and its relevance to the Mediterranean context
- the cooperation dimension
- the recommendations provided, their policy feasibility and relevance
- the contribution to the existing knowledge
- the style of writing



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The decision of the evaluation committee will be one of the following:

- The Brief is accepted
- The Brief is accepted with suggested modifications (coverage, scope, more recommendations etc.). Depending on the theme, CMI and FEMISE will appoint a Senior Expert to further review and accompany the authors in improving and finalizing their brief.
- The Brief is rejected

The selected Policy Briefs will be published under the CMI-FEMISE Policy Briefs Series “COVID-19 MedBrief”, on CMI’s and FEMISE’s online channels. They will be published in order of priority of the relevance of the topic.

The selected Briefs may undergo editing and proof reading before publishing.

Remuneration

Each accepted Brief will receive remuneration of 500 euros (regardless of the number of authors). Once the Brief is accepted, a letter of agreement will be signed with the lead author. Names of authors and contributors will be disclosed in the publications.

FEMISE, *Forum Euroméditerranéen des Instituts de Sciences Économiques (the Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Institutes of Economic Sciences)*, is a Euromed network that gathers more than 100 members of economic research institutes, representing the 37 partners of the Barcelona Process and the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). FEMISE is coordinated by the Economic Research Forum (ERF), Egypt and Institut de la Méditerranée (IM), France. Its General Objective is to reinforce dialogue between stakeholders and conduct research on priority EuroMed issues.

Web: www.femise.org Facebook: @FEMISEnetwork Twitter: @femisenetwork

The Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) is a World Bank partnership with Governments, local authorities, international development agencies and civil society from around the Mediterranean. Its main objectives are to exchange knowledge, discuss public policies, and identify the solutions needed to address key challenges facing the Mediterranean region. Members of the CMI include Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Spain, Tunisia, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, City of Marseille, the European Investment Bank, and the European External Action Service (EEAS) as an observer.

Web: www.cmimarseille.org; Facebook: CMI Marseille; Twitter: @cmimarseille