FEMISE POLICY SEMINAR

Shaping the Future: Towards a Strategic Policy Road Map for a Deeper Euro-Mediterranean Integration

16 June, 2025 - Cairo, Egypt Hybrid Event

Background

In a region facing interconnected challenges from climate and rapid change— from climate vulnerability and economic instability to digital divides, youth unemployment, and migration pressures-the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue between policymakers, researchers, and civil society becomes essential for navigating shared opportunities and addressing urgent challenges.

FEMISE, as a longstanding Euro-Med network that aims to fostering economic and social cooperation across the region, is committed to support evidence-based dialogue that provides policy responses that are both inclusive and forward-looking.

Against this backdrop, this event on "Shaping the Future: Towards a Strategic Road Map for a Deeper Euro-Mediterranean Integration", offers a timely and focused platform to present and debate key policy insights.

This policy dialogue builds on the strategic momentum generated over the past two years in FEMISE network and through its annual conferences in 2023 and 2024. The conferences offered key moments of dialogue and reflection from a broad range of stakeholders from researchers, policy experts and international organisation discussing the future of EU-Mediterranean cooperation. Organized in partnership with **the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMED)** and with the financial support of **the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)**, they brought forward research -based policy perspectives and priorities from across the Mediterranean, that could shape the region's future policy agenda.

This 2025 policy dialogue represents a continuation and consolidation of these efforts. It will offer a space to promote, discuss and reflect on these policies with the aim to shape a strategic unified vision for a Euro-Mediterranean policy roadmap.

Furthermore, the event will support the development of FEMISE's future research agenda, ensuring that it remains responsive to regional needs and continues to provide evidence-based contributions to policy debates and to serve as a catalyst for impactful collaboration across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The objectives of this seminar:

Build on a Two-Year Regional Policy Dialogue

Provide a platform for dialogue on regional policies generated from recent FEMISE research and presented during FEMISE's 2023 and 2024 Annual Conferences.

Advance a Euro-Mediterranean Policy Roadmap

Reflect on policy priorities for the region for a unified vision to guide future cooperation with the EU.

Shape FEMISE's Research Agenda

Engage with members of the FEMISE Scientific Committee and key stakeholders to shape the future research agenda aligned with the region's evolving priorities.











- 1 Shifting Paradigms: Opportunities for a Deeper EU-Mediterranean Integration in a Changing World
- 2 The Euromed Partnership as a Catalyst for SDGs: Advancing Value Chains, Climate Action, Digital Transformation, and Youth Empowerment

AGENDA

16 June 2025 - Cairo & Hybrid

9:00 – 9:30 **Registration**

9:30– 9:45 Opening Session

Welcome and introduction to the event. Brief overview of objectives and expected outcomes.

Speaker(s):

- Maryse Louis, General Manager, FEMISE
- H.E. Amb. Senén Florensa, Executive President, IEMed, Spain
- Mrs. Maria Isabel Gil, Project Manager of governance, AECID

Voices from the Region: Presenting Policy Priorities Presentation of selected policy briefs, grouped into 3 themes. Each theme explores key regional issues and offers actionable insights.

9:45-11:00

Panel 1: Greener and Inclusive Value Chains for Euro-Med integration Greener, innovative and more inclusive value chains to achieve sustainable development for the region.

Moderator: Anna Ferragina, Associate professor Department of Economics and Statistics (DISES) Centre for Research in Labour and Economic Policy (CELPE) and FEMISE Board and Scientific Committee member, Italy

9:45:10:15

Speaker(s):

- Sylvana Wafik and Asmaa Ezzat Global Value Chains and Social Upgrading in the Euro-Mediterranean region: The Role of Country's Absorptive Capacity and the way forward
- Ceyhun Elgin The Impact of Digital Transformation on Informal Sector Integration and SDG Progress in the Euromed Region
- Mohammad Makki- Building Sustainable Value
 Chains in Agriculture and Waste Management: The
 Role of Networks and Digital Platforms; Insights from
 Lebanon's Green Circle and Agricultural Revival
 Program
- Myriam Ramzy Exploring the Role of Environmental Regulations and Green Practices in Global Value Chains(GVCs) Participation: Evidence from Firms in the Euro-Mediterranean Region

10:15-10:45 **Panelists:**

- Amr Radwan, The Academy of Scientific Research & Technology (ASRT), Ministry of Scientific Research, Egypt
- Shady Amin, Deputy Executive Director, the Federation of Egyptian Industries.
- Yasmine Eissa, Assistant Professor, Onsi Sawiris School of Business, The American University in Cairo

10:45-11:00 Discussion from the floor/online

11:30-12:45 Panel 2: A Just Green Transition and Climate Resilience

Strategies for sustainable growth, green economy, and climate adaptation.

Moderator: Majd Al-Naber, Director of Science for Society Centre, Royal Scientific Society, Jordan and FEMISE Board Member

11:30-12:00 **Speaker(s):**

- Chrysoula Chitou and Stella Tsani Energy policies and female labour force participation in the EuroMediterranean region
- Anna Maria Ferragina ICT and Green
 Sustainability: The Twin Transition for MENA
 Countries ?
- Valdimir Hlasny and Shireen Alazzawi Green transition in Egypt and Jordan should be bolder and fairer to marginalized groups
- Imen Khanchel and Cyrine Khiari- Climate Change Exposure and Financial Performance: Evidence from the Mediterranean Region

12:00-12:30 **Panelists:**

- Maged Mahmoud, Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)
- Ghada Darwish, Sustainable Investment,
 Renewable Energy, Green Hydrogen, Certified
 ESG Expert, Egypt
- Abdallah AlShamali, Senior Advisor, Global Solar Council, Jordan

12:30:12:45 Discussion from the floor/online

12:45-14:00 Lunch & Networking



14:00- 14:45 Marking the 20th Anniversary of FEMISE Network

Insights from the Network: Video presentation of key milestones and reflections from FEMISE Board, Members and Partners.

14:45-16:00 Panel 3: Youth Employment, Migration, and Social Cohesion

Policy solutions for youth integration, mobility, and social inclusion.

Moderator: Moundir Lassassi, Research Director at the Research Centre in Applied Economics for Development (CREAD) and FEMISE Board and Scientific Committee member, Algeria

14:45-15:15 **Speaker(s):**

- Siham Matallah Digital financial inclusion: A silver bullet for entrepreneurship in South Mediterranean countries
- Adel Ben Youssef
 – Leveraging artificial intelligence
 for sustainable tourism in EuroMed cities: Lessons
 from the French Riviera and South Mediterranean
 experiences
- Simon Neaime Empowering Mediterranean Youth for Knowledge-Driven Growth: Unlocking the Potential of the EuroMed Partnership to Achieve the SDGs
- Hussein Suleiman Regional Economic Inequality in Egypt: trends and policies for mitigating territorial disparities

15:15-15:45 **Panelists:**

- Mohamed Abbas, Head of Management of Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Ministry of Industry, Egypt
- Douja Gharbi, co-founder and CEO of REDSTART Tunisia
- Hany Ayaad, President of the Youth Entrepreneurship Association (YEN), Egypt/ Mohamed ElBiesi, Economist and Expert in Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Sameh Hammad, Head of Component at Job Partnerships and SME Promotion Project, GIZ

15:45-16:00 Discussion from the floor/online

16:00-16:15

Coffee Break & Networking

16:15-17:30

Roundtable: from Dialogue to Policies: The Road Ahead for Euro-Mediterranean Integration

Recap of key messages towards a policies road map and reflection on future research priorities.

Moderator: Maryse Louis, General Manager, FEMISE

Speakers:

- Mona Said, Professor, The American University in Cairo and FEMISE Board member.
- Anna Ferragina, Associate professor, DISES, CELPE, Italy and FEMISE Board and Scientific Committee member
- Majd Al-Naber, Director of Science for Society Centre, Royal Scientific Society, ordan and FEMISE Board Member
- Moundir Lassassi, Research Director at CREAD and FEMISE Board and Scientific Committee member, Algeria
- Roger Albinyana, Managing Director, IEMed

17:30 – 17:45 Wrap-up and Closing











