



FEMISE
FORUM EUROMÉDITERRANÉEN DES
INSTITUTS DE SCIENCES ÉCONOMIQUES

IEMed.
European Institute of the Mediterranean

FEMISE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

NAVIGATING DISRUPTIONS & TRANSITIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: POLICIES FOR RESILIENT, INNOVATIVE & INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES

7-9 October 2026 | Tarragona, Spain

Context

The Euro-Mediterranean region is entering a period of profound transformation. Climate change, energy and food security concerns, geopolitical tensions, technological disruption, demographic pressures and shifting patterns of globalisation are reshaping economic and social realities across both shores of the Mediterranean. Recent crises have exposed structural vulnerabilities in production systems, trade networks, labour markets, public institutions and social protection systems, underscoring the need for more resilient, adaptive and inclusive development pathways.

At the same time, these disruptions create new opportunities. The green and digital transitions, the reconfiguration of global value chains, advances in innovation and technology, and emerging forms of regional cooperation can strengthen competitiveness, foster sustainable growth and promote broader inclusion. Realising these opportunities requires policies that manage risks, accelerate structural transformation and ensure that the benefits of economic change are widely shared.

Against this backdrop, the 2026 FEMISE Annual Conference, under the theme **“Navigating Disruptions and Transitions in the Mediterranean: Policies for Resilient, Innovative and Inclusive Economies,”** will bring together researchers, policymakers, international organisations, private sector actors and civil society stakeholders to examine the major economic and social transformations shaping the Mediterranean region.

The conference is designed to foster dialogue between research and policymaking. Through high-level plenaries and thematic research sessions, participants will discuss evidence-based policy responses that can strengthen resilience, competitiveness, sustainability and social inclusion across the Mediterranean. Particular attention will be given to identifying practical policy solutions and opportunities for regional cooperation in a context of growing uncertainty and accelerating change.

The programme is structured around four interrelated themes:

1. Trade, value chains and regional economic integration
2. Sustainability transitions, climate resilience and green transformation
3. Digital transformation, innovation and productivity
4. Skills, jobs, inequality and inclusive development

Together, these themes address a central question: **how can Mediterranean economies navigate disruption while building more resilient, innovative and inclusive development models?**





Day 1 Wednesday, 7 October 2026	
15:30–16:30	Conference Registration & Welcome Coffee
16:30–17:15	Welcoming Remarks Chair & Speaker: - H.E. Ambassador Senén Florensa, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), Spain & Vice President, FEMISE, France Speakers: - Raed Safadi, President, FEMISE, France & Managing Director, The Economic Research Forum (ERF), Egypt - Santiago Castellà, President, Port Authority of Tarragona, Spain - Vale Pino Lara, Delegate for European Projects, Provincial Government of Tarragona, Spain - Francesc Homs, President of the Spanish committee of LECE (the European League for Economic Cooperation), Spain
17:15–18:30	Institutional Opening Plenary The Mediterranean at a Turning Point: Resilience, Transformation and Regional Cooperation The opening plenary will set the strategic frame for the conference. It will examine how the Mediterranean region is being reshaped by geopolitical fragmentation, climate stress, technological change, demographic pressures and shifting patterns of trade and investment. The discussion will focus on how Euro-Mediterranean cooperation can help countries manage disruption, strengthen resilience and advance shared prosperity. Chair - Raed Safadi, President, FEMISE & Managing Director, ERF Speakers - Representative from the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Spain - Representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain - H.E. Rania Al-Mashat, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Lebanon - Andrea Tinagli, Senior Associate Fellow, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), Spain - Ouyoussef Lahoussine, Head of the Division for Economic Outlook Analysis and Economic Competitiveness Directorate of Studies and Financial Forecasts (DEPF) at the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Morocco Keynote Speaker - H.E. Minister Ahmed Rostom, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Egypt (TBC)
18:30–18:45	Conference Photo
18:45–20:00	Networking & Bilateral Meetings
20:00	Welcome Dinner
Day 2 Thursday, 8 October 2026	



09:00–10:00	Plenary Session 1 Reconfiguring Trade, Value Chains and Economic Integration in the Mediterranean Geopolitical uncertainty, trade fragmentation and the reorganisation of global value chains are changing the prospects for Mediterranean economies. The region's ports, transport corridors, industrial zones and logistics platforms can play a central role in strengthening connectivity and competitiveness. However, deeper integration also requires attention to trade facilitation, investment regimes, rules of origin, services trade, digital trade, industrial policy and regulatory cooperation. This plenary will examine how Mediterranean economies can build more resilient value chains, improve connectivity and deepen Euro-Mediterranean economic integration in a more fragmented global environment. It will connect the operational realities of ports, logistics platforms and economic zones with broader policy questions around trade, investment and regional cooperation. Moderator: • Maryse Louis, General Manager, FEMISE Speakers: • Ibrahim Saif, CEO, Jordan Strategy Forum, Former Minister of Energy & Mineral Resources, and Former Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan • Walid Gamal El-Din, Former Chairman of the Suez Canal Economic Zone & CEO, Algebra Capital Investment Company, Egypt • Jordi Torrent, Secretary General, MED Ports, Spain • Lilia Hachem Naas, Senior Consultant & Expert in International Trade and sustainable Economic Development, Switzerland
10:00–11:30	Thematic Session 1 Regional Integration, Trade Reconfiguration and Resilient Value Chains This research session will examine how changing trade patterns, geopolitical uncertainty and supply-chain disruptions are affecting regional integration and production networks in the Mediterranean. Moderator: • Amirah El Haddad, Senior Economist & Professor of Economics, IDOS, Germany Speakers: • Global value chain vulnerability, geopolitical risk and South Med economic resilience Lewoye Bantie Baylie, Phd Candidate, Department of Economics and Statistics (DISES), University of Salerno, Italy • Can Trade Digitization work as a Social Resilience Buffer in the Euro-Med? Sylvana Wafik, Assistant Lecturer at University of London, the European universities in Egypt • Green Disruptions in Mediterranean Shipping: Decarbonization, Containerized Trade Restructuring, and Port Competitiveness. A Dynamic Panel Analysis Rafaa Mraihi, Full Professor and Associate Researcher at MOCFINE, Higher School of Business of Tunis, University of Manouba, Tunisia • Digital Enablers of Regional Trade Integration – AfCFTA Lessons for the Euro-Mediterranean Doaa Salman, Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences, October University for Modern Sciences & Arts (MSA), Egypt.



	Discussants • Yasmine Eissa, Assistant Professor of Economics, The American University in Cairo (AUC), Egypt • Anna Ferragina, Professor of Economics, University of Salerno, Italy
11:30–12:00	Coffee Break
12:00–13:00	Plenary Session 2 Accelerating Green Transformation, Resilience and Competitiveness in the Mediterranean The Mediterranean is one of the regions most exposed to climate change, water stress, food insecurity and environmental degradation. At the same time, the green transition offers opportunities for investment, innovation, job creation and regional cooperation. The challenge is to accelerate climate adaptation and decarbonisation while protecting competitiveness, managing distributional impacts and strengthening resilience. This plenary will focus on the policies, institutions and financing mechanisms needed to support a sustainable and resilient green transition across the Mediterranean. It will address the links between climate adaptation, resource resilience, green investment, environmental governance and long-term economic competitiveness. This plenary will focus on the policies, institutions and financing mechanisms needed to support a sustainable and resilient green transition. Moderator: • Hala Abu Ali, Professor of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Political Science (FEPS), Cairo University, Egypt Speakers: • Jauad El Kharraz, CEO & Founder Water Energy Climate Experts Network, Morocco • Ghada Darweesh, Chair of the Board, the Egyptian Renewable Energy Association, Egypt • Alexia Faus, Programme Manager, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), Spain
13:00–14:30	Lunch
14:30–16:00	Thematic Session 2 Sustainability Transitions, Resource Resilience and Green Transformation in the Mediterranean This research session will focus on the environmental, economic and social dimensions of the green transition in Mediterranean economies. Papers will address climate adaptation, resource management, energy transition, water stress, food systems and green investment. Moderator: • Stella Tsani, Associate Professor, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece and FEMISE Board Member Speakers: • Carbon Pricing, Economic Resilience, and Sustainable Transition in the Mediterranean: Evidence from an E-DSGE Analysis of Morocco Oussama Neffati, PhD Candidate in Economics, Mohammed V University, Morocco • Environmental Sustainability in the Hospitality Industry: An exploratory analysis for the MED/MENA region



	Andres Artal-Tur, Professor of Economics, Technical University of Cartagena, Spain - Navigating Ecological Disruptions in the Mediterranean: A Spatial Trading Model for Marine Tipping Points Tunç Durmaz, Professor of Economics, Yıldız Technical University, Turkey. - Mapping the Transition Vulnerability Index (TVI): A Time-Varying Connectedness Diagnostic of How External Risk Shocks Reshape Algeria's Energy-Transition Pathway (2010–2026) Hadjer Boulila, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Tlemcen, Algeria Discussants - Abeer Elshennawy, Professor of Economics, The American University in Cairo (AUC), Egypt - Majd El Naber, Expert in integrated water resources management, sustainability & WEFE nexus, Jordan
16:00–16:30	Coffee Break
16:30–18:00	Thematic Session 3 Digital Ecosystems, Firm-Level Innovation and SME Digitalisation in the Mediterranean This session will examine the microeconomic and institutional foundations of digital transformation. Papers will focus on firm-level digital adoption, SME productivity, entrepreneurship, digital skills, innovation ecosystems and access to finance. Moderator: - Rafael de Arce, Professor of Econometrics, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain Speakers: - Digital Early-Warning Signals for Inclusive Climate Resilience in the Euro-Mediterranean Region: Evidence from Search Behavior and Online Public Discourse Dmitry Erokhin, Research scholar, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria. - The Impact of Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization on Youth Employment and Economic Inclusion in the Euro-Mediterranean Region: Opportunities, Risks, and Policy Responses Anis Lachiheb, Lecturer, Faculty of Economic sciences and Management of Sousse, Tunisia - Who Is Prepared for the Digital Economy? Youth Digital Readiness, Labor Market Integration, and Socioeconomic Inclusion in Egypt Rania Roushdy, Associate Professor, The American University in Cairo (AUC). - Technology Diffusion, Competitiveness, And Credit Risk: Comparative Evidence from Euro-Mediterranean Banking Systems Sara El Yahyaoui, Assistant Professor, Rabat Business School, Morocco. Discussants - Cristina Boboc, Professor of Economics, Bucharest University, Romania - Nora Aboushadi, Associate Professor of Economics, Cairo University, Egypt
18:00	Evening at Leisure
Day 3 Friday, 9 October 2026	
09:00–10:00	Plenary Session 3 Digital Transformation, Innovation and Competitiveness in the Mediterranean



	Digital transformation is reshaping competitiveness, productivity, public services and labour markets across the Mediterranean. Rapid technological change, including advances in artificial intelligence, creates opportunities for firms, governments and workers, but also risks widening gaps in capabilities, infrastructure and access. This plenary will examine how Mediterranean economies can strengthen digital ecosystems, support innovation and entrepreneurship, build digital skills and accelerate the digital transformation of firms and public institutions. It will focus on the policy and institutional conditions needed to ensure that digital transformation supports sustainable and inclusive growth. Moderator - Joan Rosàs, Director of International Institutional Affairs, CaixaBank Speakers: - Adel Ben Youssef, Professor of Economics, Université Côte d'Azur, France - Amira Qarqash, Digital Skills Development Manager, Ministry of Digital Economy & Entrepreneurship, Jordan - Inmaculada Martínez-Zarzoso, Professor of Economics, the University of Goettingen & director of the Institute of International Economics, the University Jaume I, Spain
10:00–11:00	Plenary Session 4 Employment Transitions, Skills and Inclusive Labour Markets in the Mediterranean As Mediterranean economies navigate technological, demographic, climate and geopolitical disruptions, investing in people is essential to building resilient and inclusive societies. The challenge is not only to prepare workers for the future economy, but also to address persistent labour-market inequalities, informality, youth unemployment, gender gaps, migration pressures and barriers to mobility. This plenary will examine how countries can support employment transitions, expand opportunities for young people and women, strengthen skills systems and build more inclusive labour markets. It will focus on the policies needed to connect human capital development with job creation, labour-market inclusion and social resilience. Moderator - Roger Albinyana, Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) & General Secretary, FEMISE Speakers: - Anda David, Senior Economist and Scientific Coordinator, EU-AFD Research Facility on Inequalities, AFD, France - Nikola Radovanovic, Senior Innovation & Human Capital Policy Expert, European Training Foundation (ETF), Italy - Amal Mowafy, Jordan Country Coordinator & Regional Employment Policy Specialist, International Labour Organization (ILO)
11:00–11:30	Coffee Break
11:30–13:00	Thematic Session 4 Labour Market Transformation, Inequality and Inclusive Transitions in the Mediterranean This research session will examine labour-market transformation in the context of economic, technological and demographic change. Papers will focus on employment, informality, inequality, youth and women's labour-market outcomes, migration, skills and social protection.



	Moderator: - Yasmine Fahim, Research & Programs Director, The Economic Research Forum (ERF), Egypt Speakers: - The Mediterranean Green Economy through a Gender Lens: Employment Patterns, Structural Barriers, and North-South Divergence Mounir Dahmani, Associate Professor of Economics, Higher Institute of Business Administration, University of Gafsa, Tunisia - Climate change readiness and youth labor market: political leadership and spatial dynamics in the Euromed region Chrysoula Chitou, Phd Candidate, Department of Economics, University of Ioannina, Ioannina, Greece - Financial Literacy, Conflict Dynamics, and Household Economic Resilience: Evidence from Palestine Rabeh Morrar, Associate Professor in Economics, An-Najah National University & Head of Institution, National TVET Commission, Palestine - Implementing the Triple Transition in the Euro-Mediterranean Region: Policy Pathways for Green, Digital and Social Resilience Jérémie Fosse, Director, Eco-union, Spain Discussants: - Moundir Lassassi, Research Director, CREAD, Algeria and FEMISE Board Member - Mona Said, Professor of Economics, The American University of Cairo (AUC), Egypt and FEMISE Board Member
13:00–13:30	Closing Session From Research to Policy: Key Takeaways for Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation The closing session will synthesise the main messages from the conference, highlight policy lessons, identify areas for further research and explore how FEMISE can strengthen its role as a Euro-Mediterranean research and policy platform. It will highlight policy lessons from the plenaries and thematic sessions, areas where further research is needed, and opportunities for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. The session will also help identify how FEMISE can strengthen its role as a Euro-Mediterranean research and policy platform, supporting dialogue between researchers, policymakers, institutions and development partners. Speakers - Raed Safadi, President, FEMISE, France & Managing Director, The Economic Research Forum (ERF), Egypt - Maryse Louis, General Manager, FEMISE - Roger Albinyana, Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) & General Secretary, FEMISE, France - Javier Aria, President, ELEC International
13:30	Closing Lunch